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Wanted, for Xmas, 1915-16, First-class Pantomime, for HUDDERSFIELD.

Say where can be seen.

Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, WOOLWICH.

Lessee and Manager, Jules Richeux.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, First-class Attractions, March 29, May 17, 31, Aug. 16, 30, and onwards, with exceptions.

Last Three Weeks' Takings.

Jan. 26—£292 6s. 6d.
Feb. 1—£490 18s. 3d.
Feb. 8—£232 16s. 0d.

Re dates, JAY AND MANN.

COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, WANTED, First-class Companies only, April 19, May 3, 17, on.

GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, April 5, May 3, 10, 24, on.

Still playing to capacity.

B. GRAHAM FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.

WANTED, Companies, March 1, 8, and various dates onwards.

Apply, G. HAYES, Pier, Eastbourne.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.

WANTED, Feb. 22, on, Panto, for Xmas. WEATHERSBY'S AGENCY, 3, Bedford-street, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL, PETERBOROUGH, WANTED, March 1, 8, 22, April 19, May 3. Three nights or full week. With strong attraction. All communications, LIEUT.-COL. J. A. WINSTANLEY.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, CARLISLE.

Lessee and Manager, Sidney Bacon.

WANTED, FIRST-CLASS ATTRACTIONS, March 1, 8, 22, April 12, 26, onwards.

Address, SIDNEY BACON, 143, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C.

Telegrams, "Nocabdis-Ox-London."

Telephone, Gerrard 1456.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.

One of the Prettiest and Most Popular and up-to-date Theatres in the North.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Musical Comedies, Revenues, and Star Vaudeville, March 29, April 5, 12, 26, onwards.

Good shows can rely on big business. This week, "Beauty and the Beast."

JAMES BELL.

THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.

WANTED, Companies (musical preferred), April 26, May 10, on, with exceptions. Now booking autumn. E. R. CROW, Manager.

THE LONDON DISTRICT THEATRES.

KING'S and WIMBLEDON.

Owner and Manager, J. B. Mulholland.

THE WIMBLEDON, VACANT, a few weeks from March 8.

Only First-class Attractions.

WIMBLEDON, Season's Bookings include:

WIMBLEDON, JULIA NELSON and FRED TERRY.

WIMBLEDON, D'OYLE CARTE.

WIMBLEDON, MATHESON LANG in "MR. W."

WIMBLEDON, "CINEMA STAR" (Shaffesbury Co.).

WIMBLEDON, "POTASH AND PERLMUTTER."

WIMBLEDON, "THE STORY OF THE ROSARY."

WIMBLEDON, "DIPLOMACY."

WIMBLEDON, "WHERE THE RAINBOW ENDS."

WIMBLEDON, IRVING VANBRUGH in "Land of Promise."

WIMBLEDON, "THEATRE."

Address, Mr. Mulholland, King's Theatre, Hammersmith, W.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATH, Vacancies, March 22, 23, April 12, May 3, 24, 31, onward, with exceptions.

NEW THEATRE, WORCESTER, Vacant, April 12, 19, May 3, 10, 24, 31, July 5, 12, 19, 26, 29, 30, 31, on.

EMPIRE, WORCESTER, Arrangements complete.

THEATRE ROYAL, BARRY, Immediate Vacancies.

THEATRE ROYAL, TONYPANDY, Autumn Vacancies.

KING'S ELECTRIC THEATRE, BARRY, Arrangements complete.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH, Immediate vacancies.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON, Ravenscourt, Worcester.

ROYALTY THEATRE and OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, First-class Attractions for April 12.

Bookings include the principal attractions touring.

Applications re dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only, T.R., DUBLIN, G.T., DUBLIN, March 1 (1), 15 (1), 22 (1), May 10 (1), 24.

O.H., BELFAST, March 1, 8 (1), 22 (1), 29 (1), May 10, on.

O.H., COKE, March 8, April 12, 26 (1), May 3, T.R., LIMERICK, Autumn and Spring.

G.T., SWANSEA, March 29 (1), May 31, on.

G.T., SOUTHAMPTON, March 22 (1), April 12, 19, 26, May 10, 24, 31.

T.R., Bournemouth, April 12 (1), 26 (1), May 17.

P.P.T., BRIGHTON, April 5 (music only), July 5, 12, and September.

HIPPO, DARLINGTON, Spring and Autumn (for music only).

THE FREDK. MOUILLOT OFFICES, 1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

THE NEW EMPIRE, Paradise-street, WEST BROMWICH.

Built 1914. Opened June 1. Magnificent New Brick and Stone Building. Holding capacity, 2,500.

One of the Largest Stages in the Midlands.

WANTED, The Best Twice-nightly Musical and Dramatic Productions, Revenues, Pantomimes, &c., March 29, onwards.

Bookings include: Turner's Opera Co., "The Cingalee," Mr. J. Bannister Howard's Companies, "The Lady Slavey," "The Glorious Day," The Elliott Savonas, Charles R. Whittle, and some of the largest productions touring.

Lowest Salaries or shares, B. KENNEDY, Empire, Smethwick.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, for THE ROYAL THEATRICAL AGENCY, Dramas, Musical Comedies, Revenues, and Panto.

Bookings for the Principal Theatres and Halls in England. Short journeys round Manchester and Midland Towns, Lancs, Yorks, Cheshire, and Derby Counties.

This Agency is controlled by a qualified staff, who have had years of practical experience in the Theatrical Profession.

Companies entrusting us with their bookings can rely on us doing our utmost to merit their confidence.

Send every particular.

Manager, RAY EUGENE, Lea House, Newmills, near Manchester.

Wires, "Royde, Newmills," Phone 61, Newmills.

METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD.

WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, Aug. 2, on, with exceptions.

STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

EMPIRE THEATRE, OSWESTRY.

WANTED, Wanted, for above, Monday next and onwards.

Smart Attractions, Musical Comedy, Panto, or Revenues. Good Stock Company. Write fullest particulars. Wire for Monday, CODMAN, Oswestry.

NEW THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

This successful Theatre, the largest holding capacity out of London, will be run

TWICE NIGHTLY from Easter onwards.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Vacant April 12, April 19, May 3, May 10, May 17.

Apply, LOUIS CASSON, 9, St. Martin's-court, W.C. Phone, Regent 1758.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, NORWICH.

WANTED, Wanted, Companies, March 15, March 22, April 12.

FRED MORGAN, Manager.

SCARBOROUGH GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

WANTED, First-class Attractions (Musical Comedy, Revenues, or Combinations preferred), March 15, onward.

Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK, Theatre, Harrogate. Silence a polite negative.

THEATRE ROYAL, WINDSOR.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 10,000 troops in district. Excellent business every week.

Apply, J. E. BULL.

THEATRE ROYAL, BRECKROAD, LIVERPOOL.

WANTED, Musical and Dramatic Attractions, also Revenues and Star Combinations.

To Play Twice Nightly.

To Play Twice Nightly.

Share or Certainty.

Address, MATTHEW MONTGOMERY, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEIGH, LANC.

WANTED, Musical Comedy, Drama, or Revue, for March 1 and 8. Once Nightly.

First-class Companies only. Address, GEORGE JORDAN.

THEATRE ROYAL, KING'S LYNN.

WANTED, next week, really Strong Attraction; first three nights for preference.

GEORGE ANTHONY, Business Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, HANLEY.

WANTED, Wanted, First-class Pantomime, Four or five weeks, Christmas, 1915-16.

Also First-class Attractions.

April 19 and on, with exceptions.

O. G. ELPHINSTONE.

MARLBOROUGH, LONDON, N.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, Easter Week, April 5, Easter Week, April 5.

Apply, HERBERT STEVENS, Marlborough Theatre, London, N.

GRAND THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.

WANTED, Strong Attractions; Drama, Panto, Revue, Monday Next, and on; wire for Monday, MANAGER, Grand Theatre, Ebbw Vale.

WANTED, First-class Companies; for Vacant Dates, February 22, March 1 and 22, April 12, 19, and 26. ARTHUR DEAN, Managing Director, New Palace Theatre, Arbroath.

COMPANIES WANTED.

H. W. ROWLAND'S BOOKING CIRCUIT.

WANTED, High-class Revenues, Variety Combinations, and Twice-nightly Attractions.

DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE, April 19, on.

GAITY THEATRE, HASTINGS, March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 19.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE, March 8, 15, 22, April 26.

LATEST LONDON THEATRICAL SUCCESSES ONLY.

BOOKED AT INTERVALS.

CORONET THEATRE, W. March 29, onwards (twice nightly).

OPERA HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Easter week, Malindine.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, Easter week, onwards.

H. W. ROWLAND, Coronet Theatre, W.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON, WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, onwards with exceptions.

Address, ALFRED MANNERS, as above.

LYCEUM THEATRE, IPSWICH, Lessee and Manager, Eugene C. Stafford.

WANTED, Managers, with Big Attractions to apply for Dates for Musical Shows or Good London Plays. Vacant dates, Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, Easter week, onwards to Whit week. The right plays take the money.

WANTED, First-class Pantomime Production, for run 1915-16. Theatre Royal, Bath, and Theatre Royal, Worcester.

ARTHUR CARLTON, Worcester.

GRAND THEATRE, RHYL, WANTED, First-class Attractions, Whit Week, and on. Three or six nights. Address, SAMUEL THORNLEY, Secretary and Manager.

DALSTON THEATRE, N.E. Lessee and Manager, J. Langdon Lee.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for the following dates: April 19, May 17, Aug. 16, 23, 30; also October and November.

Big Attractions only with West-End reputations. Business booming. Better than last spring.

THE PERTH THEATRE, WANTED, Good Companies, March 1, March 15 (1) and March 29 (3 nights). Address, J. H. SAVILE, Paisley Theatre.

HIPPOTRONE, HAMILTON, N.E. Sole Proprietor, E. H. Bostock.

WANTED, for March 15, onwards, FIRST-CLASS, DRAMATIC ATTRACTIONS TWICE NIGHTLY.

No Travelling Dramatic Companies in the town for years, and big district to draw upon.

Only First-class Attractions considered.

Lowest Sharing Terms first letter to BOSTOCK, Exhibition Buildings, Glasgow.

PALACE, DURHAM, On the Main Line, N.E.R. WANTED, Dramas, Musical Comedies, Revenues, and Specialities of All Sorts. Apply, T. C. RAWES.

FRANCIS LAIDLER'S THEATRES.

WANTED, Strong Twice Nightly Dramatic Attractions for March 29, May 10, and various other dates, for Theatre Royal, Leeds.

Also Wanted, Strong Twice Nightly Dramatic Attractions for May 24 and June 7, for Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

Also Wanted, Strong Once Nightly Attractions (Musical Plays preferred) for April 5 (1), 19, and various other dates, for Hippodrome, Keighley.

Address, FRANCIS LAIDLER, Alhambra, Bradford.

WINTER GARDENS, NEW BRIGHTON.

The most popular Theatre in Cheshire with a unique following. Complete in every department. Business always satisfactory.

WANTED

FIRST-CLASS PRODUCTIONS.

April 5 (Easter) vacant for Musical Comedy, etc., also May 3, onwards with exceptions.

This Theatre visited by:—

Mr. Martin Harvey & Co.

Mr. Lewis Waller & Co.

Miss Ellen Terry.

Miss Lillah McCarthy

and

Mr. Granville Barker's Co.

Mr. Robert Courtneidge's Cos.

O'Mara Opera Co.

Mr. H. V. Esmond

and

Miss Eva Moore's Cos.

Mr. George Edwardes' Cos.

Mr. George Dance's Cos.

Mr. Percy Hutchison & Cos.

Macdonald & Young's Cos.

Special Repertory Cos.

Mr. Rutland Barrington & Co.

The late Mr. Edward Terry & Co.

The late Mr. Laurence Irving and

Miss Mabel Hackney,

and many others.

BOOKINGS for 1915 include

MOST OF THE BEST COMPANIES

TRAVELLING.

Address: ALBERT DOUGLASS,

Winter Gardens, New Brighton.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Companies.

THEATRE ROYAL, NORTH SHIELDS, Aug. 2 (1), 9, 16, 23, Sept. 13, Nov. 1, on.

THEATRE ROYAL, COATBRIDGE, Aug. 2, 9, 30, Sept. 13, 20, Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 8, 29, on.

GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER, Aug. 9, 16, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20, Oct. 11, 18.

THEATRE ROYAL, WHITEHAVEN, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25.

FORESTERS' THEATRE, Mile End, London, E.

WANTED, Monday next, Wanted, First-class Productions, Pantomime, Musical Comedy, or Revue, Monday next, Feb. 22.

FREDERIC BAUGH, "Phone, Avenue 5954. Wires, "Stageyness, London."

WANTED, Dram

W. W. KELLY'S

3 MERSEYSIDE THEATRES.

Still on Top. GOOD SHOWS at POPULAR PRICES
HAVE DONE THE TRICK.

LAST WEEK OF THE SUCCESSFUL SHAKESPEARE PANTOMIME
RED RIDING HOOD

As Produced by JOHN TILLER.

THE RECORD RUN OF LIVERPOOL THIS YEAR.
Seventy-six Performances Registered since Boxing Day.

Friday Evening, Feb. 19, Grand Gala Night and Complimentary Benefit to W. W. KELLY. EXTRA ATTRACTIONS
FOR THIS NIGHT ONLY

LAST WEEK OF THE

Moody-Manners Opera Company

at KELLY'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL, where they started their 8 weeks
and one day season on Boxing Day, giving 67 Performances in all,
with the greatest possible satisfaction.

Owing to their phenomenal success Mr. Kelly has re-booked this Famous
Company for 10 weeks and 21 Matinees, commencing next Boxing Day,
Monday, Dec. 27, 1915. This is a record that any Theatre in Great Britain
should be proud of.

Mr. T. MORTON POWELL'S Latest Play

A FALLEN IDOL

opened at THE THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD, on Monday
to two good houses, and scored a gigantic success.

VACANT DATES as follows:

SHAKESPEARE, Mar. 15 & April 5; KELLY'S, Mar. 29 & April 19; ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD, May 31 & June 7.

PHENOMENAL SUCCESS OF THE GREAT FRANCO-BRITISH PLAY. The only Napoleonic Play that has ever stood the test of time—
All others, like Napoleon himself, soon met their "Waterloo."

A ROYAL DIVORCE.

By W. G. WILLS.

Now in its 24th year of continuous touring, and going stronger than ever.

This play holds a very unique record and has already paid 62 visits to MANCHESTER, 62 visits to LIVERPOOL, 51 visits to BIRMINGHAM,
and over 45 visits each to GLASGOW, BELFAST, DUBLIN, &c.

Vacant dates—May 3 and 17.

THE NEW EAST LYNNE.

By EDMUND GURNEY.

The most successful version of this play ever written, and the only version that has ever played a fortnight in Dublin to £1,400.
Managers wishing to include this version of "East Lynne" in their repertoire can have it on payment of 10s. per performance, and I am also willing to
supply my magnificent plant of five-colour printing at three-halfpence per double crown sheet. Now here's a chance for enterprising managers to make money.

This version is so arranged that it can be played either once or twice nightly.
Mr. Kelly is proprietor of the well-known Theatrical Printing Firm of Hollinghurst Brothers, and he is also a Director of the Liverpool Palais
de Luxe, Limited, the most successful Picturedrome in Liverpool.
For further particulars concerning any of the above, please wire or write to—

W. W. KELLY, New Theatre Royal, BIRKENHEAD.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "HUSTLER," BIRKENHEAD.

Telephone Nos. for Shakespeare, Liverpool: 1327 and 245 Royal. Telephone No. for Kelly's, Liverpool: 400 Royal. Telephone No. for New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead: 161 Birkenhead.

NEXT WEEK'S CALLS.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1915.

The Editor relies upon the good faith of managers and others, and cannot accept responsibility with regard to any inaccuracies, or changes which may be made in the calls.

BOSTOCK TOUR.

BLANTYRE PICTURE HOUSE.—Prof. Tom Verne, pictures.
HAMILTON HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—Hamamara Family, Eddie Howard, Evelyn May and Sister, Tom Cullen, Jess and Tony, the Donatos, pictures, Coleman and Alexandra.
HAMILTON VICTORIA HALL.—Pictures.
IPSWICH HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 2).—Chas. Whittle, Nancy Clifford, Owen King, Dix and Des, Florie Foster, the Kaly Boys, War Pictures, Lee Eldons, Bradshaw Bros.
NORWICH HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 2).—Amasis, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, Marry Bedford, Rosie Archer, pictures, Belle Davis and Pies.
PAISLEY HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—Josephine Langley, Herd and Gard, G. W. Lawrence, Alcide Capitaine, Jordan and Hudson, Jack Stocks, pictures, Binns and Binns.

KENNEDY CIRCUIT.

BEARWOOD COLISEUM (rehearsal, 12).—Fred Hunt, Indiana, Smyler Lee.
BIRMINGHAM GAIETY (rehearsal, 12).—Clark and Brewer, Rees Trio.
SMETHWICK EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12).—Arthur Watson and Co., "Sprouts," A. E. Burtie, A. W. Harley.
TIPTON TIVOLI (rehearsal, 2).—Marius Low and Co., Baby Beattie.
WEDNESBURY KING'S (rehearsal, 12).—The Howards, Steve Swift, Florence Guest.
WEST BROMWICH NEW EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12).—Elliott Savanas, Archie O'Neill, etc.

LONDON SYNDICATE HALLS.

BRITON EMPRESS (rehearsal, 12).—Piller and Gerard, D'Vorak Family, David Poole, Gaudier's Toyshop, Walter Emerson, Gwendie Hest, Vine and Brewer, Marjorie Dean, Bioscope.
CHELSEA (rehearsal, 12).—Signor Arturo Bernhardt, Maude Robinson and Co., Lily Leas, Tatten Hall, Gintaro, Scott Gibson, George Newburn, Aubrey, Eddie Walker, Bioscope.
EAST HAM (rehearsal, 12).—The Original Four Lancers, the Barquinaders, Cyril Clensy and Co. in "The Cello String," the Verds Bros., Belgian comedy acrobats, David Poole, Albert Lettine, Billie Butt, Halma, Will Nossam, Bioscope.
EUSTON (rehearsal, 12).—Tom Collins presents "Buying a Pub," the Seven Zereofos, Mollie Lindsay and Co., Anna Dorothy, Naughton and Gold, Harry Webber, Austin Radd, Hammon and Wyatt, Bioscope.
METROPOLITAN (rehearsal, 12.15).—The Corinths, Murray, Leonard and Co., Naughton and Gold, Harry Marlow, Eddy Walker, Ray Wallace, Rocky, Dorothy Graham and Co., Bioscope.
SOUTH LONDON (rehearsal, 12).—Martin Adeson and Co., Tom Craven and Co., Foot-Gers, the Harlequinades, Les Vocales, Madge Omond, Augustin and Hartley, Arthur D'Oville, Hammon and Wyatt, Bioscope.
TOTTENHAM (rehearsal, 2).—Tom Collins presents "Buying a Pub," Flora Cromer, the public contract entertainers, Briff, Briff, and Briff, Anglo-Belgian comedy tumbler, Sack, Tom Wootwell, Austen Temple, G. V. Sallal, Colombo, Wynne Montone, the Medders, Bioscope.
WATFORD (rehearsal, 1).—Mary Mayfren and Co., Trooper Charles Wilson, Jack Whitford, Little Gant, Dorothy and Clifford, Grey Trio, Lola Patey, Sydney James Strolling Players, Edith Goff, Bioscope.

MACNAGHTEN TOUR.

BLACKBURN PICTURES, Miles Stavordales, Vinctos, Philip Levard and Co., Agda and Co., Talbot O'Farrell, Park's Boys and Girls, Lenn Lynn, Wirth Family.
BRADFORD.—Pictures, Ernie Ream, The Doves, Geo. E. Carnell, Voluntary Troupe, Blake and Granby, 3 Stewart, Mlle. Delene.
BURNLEY.—Pictures, Noblett, Cromo and Hamilton, Dublin Desmonds, Johnson and Bert, Symphonia, Foster Kershaw, Percy Johnson.
CARLISLE.—Pictures, Bros. Leo, Rich Hayes, Bros. St. John, Hubert Williams, Leo Conn, Les Martineks, A. Hubert.
HALIFAX.—Pictures, Empire Opera Singers, Jean Schwiller, Noiset, Nan Saunders, Cunningham and Cressall, Great and Good, Celina Bobe.
HULL.—Pictures, Will H. Fox, Thornbury, Neville Delmar, Wal Townsend, C. Hanbury and Co., Bobbie Thornton, Zella Vandi and Co., "Heart of a Jew," Frank Hartley.
LEICESTER PAVILION.—Marie Santoi and Co., Three Clarks, the Sultans, Loraine and KMD, Radford and Russell, and company as booked.
LONDON.—Pictures, Cecil Lytle, "The Meanest Man on Earth," Lily Hartley, Fred Zariella, Sisters Gilbert, and company as booked.
SOUTHAMPTON.—Pictures, Hyman and Metford, Winbar Quartette, F. V. St. Clair, Penman and Miller, Jennie Williams, Le Petit Chapeau, Fred Lindsay, "William Henry's Wedding."
SOUTHPORT.—Pictures, Yazo, Bert Terrell, Dave Stewart, Charburn's Stars, Athas and Collins, Arthur Melrose, "White Mother."
WARRINGTON.—Pictures, Laurette and Laurel, John C. Glass, Ally Benson, Violet and Pink.
Blackburn bars Darwin and Accrington.
Burnley bars Accrington, Nelson and Colne.
Warrington bars Earlston and Widnes.
Southampton bars Eastleigh.
Rehearsals at all halls, 12.

MOSS' EMPIRES.

BIRMINGHAM EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Farr and Farland, Mongadors, Bioscope, Three Crooks, Rivers and Sullivan, Dave Bryant, Kitty Wager, Sublet Trio.
BIRMINGHAM GRAND (rehearsal, 1).—Henri De Vries and Co., Cruikshank, Fred Poplar, Eight Sunshine Girls, Bioscope, Four Vagabonds, Popescu Troupe, Bill Cherry and Hill.
BIRMINGHAM SUMMERHILL PALACE (rehearsal, 12).—Harry Hendrick, Sylvio, Bracewell and Bond, Picture Entertainment.
BRADFORD EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Chung Ling Soo, Bioscope, Gladys Huxley, Bert Weston, Six Ceylons, Frank and Vesta.
CARDIFF EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Gerald Griffin, Tom Edwards, Lily Burnand, Rose Sattella, Conway George, Bioscope, Two Tomboys, Harry Herbert.
CARDIFF OLYMPIA (rehearsal, 1).—Walter Gatty, Clive Walls, picture entertainment.
CARDIFF PANOPTICON (rehearsal, 1).—Lionel and Louis, picture entertainment.
DUBLIN EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Company as booked.
EDINBURGH EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Jock McKay, Baroness Dastrel, Joe and Willy, Sophie Forrest, Chris Van Bern, Fyne and Hurley, Bioscope, Seymour Hicks, Gladys Cooper.
FINSBURY PARK EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Selbit's Spirit Paintings, Dale and O'Malley, Cassie Walmer, Chris, Baker, Bioscope, Holden's Mannikins, Nava and Minton, Ritchie Troupe, Chas. Austin, Barclay Gammon.

GLASGOW COLISEUM (rehearsal, 1).—Harry Burns' panto, "Dick Whittington."
GLASGOW EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Rich and Rich, Elsie Roby, Ida Revel, Bioscope, "Partez Vous Française."
GLASGOW GRAND (rehearsal, 1).—Company as booked.
HULL PALACE (rehearsal, 1).—Florence Wray and Co., Nina Gordon, Violet Stockelle, Larry Lewis, Correa, Will Van Allen, Carpati Brothers, Bioscope, James Fawn.
LEEDS EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Wilkie Bard, Daisy Wood, Phil Parsons, Daphne Wynne, Bioscope, Felix and Fisher, Clovelly Girls, Musical Johnstons.
LIVERPOOL EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—"Case of Johnny Walker," G. H. Chirwin, Mee and Leslie, Coverdale's Dots, Virvians, Cycery Buffoons, Bioscope, Pauline Travis.
LIVERPOOL OLYMPIA (rehearsal, 1).—John Tiller's pantomime, Jack and Jill.
LONDON HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 10).—"Business as Usual" and star company.
NEWCASTLE EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Marie Lloyd, Bioscope, Fred Maitland, Wilson and Waring, Arthur Sutcliffe, Chas. Cohan, Mlle. Irma Lorraine, Ten Lounies.
NEWCASTLE NEW EMPIRE CINEMA.—Picture entertainment.
NEW CROSS BROADWAY (rehearsal, 1).—"The Girl in the Taxi."
NEW CROSS EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—"Mind Your Own Business," Thorpe and Coe, Tom Burton, Bioscope, Fred Durant and Dogs.
NEWPORT EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Ted, Richard, and May Hopkins, John and Baby, Gilday and Fox, Arthur Young, Anna Hana, Bioscope, S. W. Wyndham, Radford and Valentine.
NOTTINGHAM EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—"Passing Ercula," Bioscope, Dora Lyric, Gertrude Bibby, W. S. Percy and Co.
NOTTINGHAM GRAND (rehearsal, 1).—"What Hoi Tango."
SHEFFIELD EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Lyn Harding, Whiffles, Clifton, Carr, Lynn, Florence and Lillian Trio, Bioscope, Fred Curran, Barton and Ashley.
SOUTH SHIELDS EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—James Stewart, Harry Weldon, Paul Vandi, etc.
STOKE NEWINGTON ALEXANDRA THEATRE (rehearsal, 1).—Kenway and Green, Ryan and Ryan, National Trio, picture entertainment.
STRAFORD EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—"Mumming Birds," Craggs, Chas. Vincent, Lillie South, Albert Le Fr, Matthew Routon, Bioscope, Max Henderson, Duncan's Dogs.
SUNDERLAND EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—"Something Doing," Rawsons, pictures.
SWANSEA EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Walter Passmore and Co., Four Astors, Pasquali Bros., Fred Willson, Dolly Victoria Troupe, Bioscope, Mod. Wells.
WALSALL GRAND PICTURE HOUSE (rehearsal, 1).—Picture entertainment, etc.
WALSALL HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE (rehearsal, 1).—Company as booked.
WALSALL IMPERIAL HALL (rehearsal, 1).—Picture entertainment, etc.
WEST HARTLEPOOL EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Four Royal Scots, G. H. Elliott, Christy and Willis, Emilie Hayes, Horace Hunter and Co., The Avis Four.

STOLL TOUR.

ARDWICK GREEN EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12.30).—Jack Edge, Brightie and Carlyon, Lydia Yavorska, the Bartie Quartette, Bioscope.
BRISTOL HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—The Four Powers, Ernest Shand, Viviana's Toy Shop, Bioscope.
CHATHAM EMPIRE.—Ragolio, Goodfellow and Gregson, the Five Petites, Dorothy Warwick, Jimmy Godden, Eddis Coombs Trio, Bioscope.
CHISWICK EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12).—Jackson and Charles, Fred Arthur, Kenna Brothers, Bioscope.
HACKNEY EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12).—Nixon Grey, Dexter, the Versatile Four, Eight Saxons, Ruby Rowe, Rallis Wilson Trio, Carl and Tommy Howard, Bioscope.
LEICESTER FLORAL HALL.—Pictures.
LEICESTER PALACE (rehearsal, 12).—Roya and Rejane, Helen Charles, Bioscope.
LONDON COLISEUM (rehearsal, 10).—Arthur Bouchier and Violet Vanbrugh in "Divorce While You Wait," the Follies, Ellaline Terriss and Stanley Brett in "Always Tell Your Wife," Felyne Verbit, Jack Norworth, Marie Dainton, Gertrude Gitan, Griffiths Brothers, Grogie, Bioscope.
MANCHESTER HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—Edith Pink, George Lashwood, Oyra and Dorna Leigh, Volant, O'Way and O'Dare, Bioscope.
NEW MIDDLESEX.—Varieties.
SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12).—Minnie Mae, Hunter and Bob, Australian All Stars, Eric Godley, George Crotty, Violet Black, Bioscope.
WOOD GREEN EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12.30).—George Laird, Gertrude Gitan, Bioscope.

VARIETY THEATRES CONTROLLING CO.

BOSCOMBE HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 1.30).—"Partners," Herbert La Martine, "Win and Windle," T. B. Barr, pictures.
BRADFORD ALHAMBRA (rehearsal, 12).—Conway and Leland, Grock and Partner, Maud Hughes, Gwenn and Trevelyan, pictures, etc.
BRIGHTON HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—Horace Jones and Co., Zigeuner Quartette, Dauntton Shaw Troupe, Jenny Hartley, pictures.
GLASGOW ALHAMBRA (rehearsal, 12).—Albert Bruno and Co., Carlton and Co., Lily Leonard, Roland, Mandos, G. S. Melvin, pictures.
LEEDS HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—The Kraks, Sharps, Tromboneers, Courtiers, Doring's Pigeons, Fred Walsley, Billy Brown, pictures.
LIVERPOOL HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—Mary Neil and Co., Hope Charteris, Monty Ash, Joannys, Bros. Horne, Rich Taylor.
MANCHESTER PALACE (rehearsal, 11, and Monday matinee).—"The Forest Fire," Albert Whelan, O'Gust, Fourtits, Five Cliftons, Ruth Vincent, Tom E. Hughes, pictures.
NEWCASTLE HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—"Colonel Cobb," Harvey Boys, Will Collinson and Co., Daisy Stratton, pictures.
PORTSMOUTH HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 1).—"Beauties," Lloyd and Lane, Four Curtis, Solo, Winnie Wayne.
SHEFFIELD HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12).—"The Honey-moon Express," Moore and Sumner, Curam, pictures, etc.
SOUTHAMPTON HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12.30).—Avri Mystery, Marfayne, Dorrims Trio, Milner and Storey, Harry Hasto, Horton and La Triska, Wilson Hallett, pictures.
SOUTHEAST HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 1.30).—"Business as Usual," Elsie Stead, Milly and Gordon Trio, Orpheus, pictures.

WOLVERHAMPTON EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—"The Steam Laundry," Louis Hart, Stolls Stahl, Jack Lorrimer, "The New Slavey," pictures.
ALBANY WARD CIRCUIT.
CHIPPENHAM PALACE.—The Twin Sisters Rose, Feb. 25, 26, and 27, Carl Fredricks' "Robinson Crusoe."
EXMOUTH PUBLIC HALL THEATRE.—The Musical Bentleys, Robb Gilmore.
FROME PALACE.—Grossman and Winters.
GUERNSEY THEATRE ST. JULIANS.—The Leslie-Rene Trio, in "All at Sea," Ben Jackson.
JERSEY ALHAMBRA.—Pictures.
JERSEY OPERA HOUSE.—Pictures.
PORTLAND EASTON PALACE.—Revene and Revel.
PORTLAND MASONIC HALL.—Revene and Revel.
RADSTOCK PALACE.—George and Olga.
SALISBURY NEW THEATRE.—Lawrence Brough and Co., in "The Lady of Osford."
SALISBURY PALACE.—Capt. Fred Woodward's Sea Lions, The Moxels, The Ashdowns, The Luciani Trio.
TRENTHAM PALACE.—Irving and West, Nan Warren, Rayne and Hazel, Will Matthews and Lady.
TROWBRIDGE PALACE.—The Rogues, Crawford and Johnson.
WIMBORNE PALACE.—Feb. 22, 23, and 24, Carl Fredricks' "Robinson Crusoe."
WYMOUTH ARCADIA.—Roller skating.
WYMOUTH BELLE VUE PALACE.—Pictures.
WYMOUTH PALLADIUM.—Eddie and Eva.
WYMOUTH ROYAL JUBILEE HALL.—Company as booked.
YEovil PALACE.—The Four Musical Stanlins, Langley and Peterson.
(Band rehearsals at each place at 1 o'clock, except Weymouth, at 12.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

ALDERSHOT HIPPODROME (rehearsal, 12.30).—Imperial Troupe of Trick Cyclists, The Brighton Bathing Belles, Sydney and Melbourne, Adams, Barrett and Elgar, Iris Banfield, Constance Mori, Tom Leamore, and Hippodrome Pictorial Chronicle.
ALDERSHOT, ALFRED BERTS MILITARY HALLS (rehearsal, 2.30).—The Roberts, The Two Raynes, Billy Ross's Sketch Co., Wilson and Page, The Berkeleys, Bert Wallace, Mildred Roper, Geo. H. Coran, Edie Grey, Prof. Earle, Jean Compton, Chas. E. Browne, Bert Earle, and Dolly Richardson.
ASTON HIPPODROME.—Seven Brannas, Five Olracs, Thornton and Wagner, Edie Lawler, L. and M. Williams, and Dick Batch.
BATH PALACE (rehearsal, 1).—Peterman's productions in "The Hairdresser" and "The Stationmaster," Ed. E. Ford, Wragg and Wragg, pictures, etc.
BATLEY HIPPODROME.—Mr. J. Newton Cowling's Co., "Her Secret Lover."
BOLTON GRAND THEATRE (rehearsal, 11.30).—May Erne and He, Alice Hollander, Watsaw Bros., New House and Ward Trio, Penard, Ryewodes Trio.
CAMBRIDGE NEW THEATRE (rehearsal, 11).—Three Meers, Saxone Bros., Audrey Cooper, Arthur Verno, Dorasami, Colman Irving, and Gillette.
COUNTRY HIPPODROME.—Whidden and Kuming, Kitty Grey, Fred Keeton, and the Anarots.
DUDLEY OPERA HOUSE (rehearsal, 1 p.m.).—"The Girl from Utah."
GLASGOW PAVILION (rehearsal, 11).—Mr. Ramsay Williams, Tom Clare, Harry Lauder Pipe Band, Flying Julians, Kitty Clifton, Hugh Ogilvie, Billie Berle.
GUILDFORD THEATRE ROYAL.—H. V. Neilson presents "Diana of Dobson's."
HARBOROUGH EMPIRE THEATRE (rehearsal, 2).—Tom Craggs, Olive Neil, Comm and Dare.
KINGSTON EMPIRE (rehearsal, 12.30).—Messrs. F. and H. Reeves present Revue, "Go Ahead," The Goodalls, Williams and Warden, Madge Clifton, Thornley Dodge, and Empire Pictorial Chronicle.
LONDON PALACE.—Oscar Ashe, Lily Braxton and Co., Barrels Gammon, Du Calion, Little Miss June, Elsie Southgate and Sister, Cornelia and Eddie, E. H. Mills, and Rosie Wylie.
LONDON VICTORIA PALACE.—Ethel Levey, Pic. Edwards, Ruth Maitland and Co., Carola Quintette, O'Gorman Bros., Sutcliffe Family, Tom Fayte, Four Juggling Swifts, Vere and Neldon, and The New Mace.
LUTON PALACE.—Victoria Monks, Vic and Vie, Hadley Harman, Rosalie Hamilton, The Wedburys, and Snow and Bickley.
MANCHESTER TIVOLI (rehearsal, 12).—Will Gardner, Dan and Mcsots, Katie and her Pianist, Walter Wade, Brandons, Grogie Collins, Le Moore and Doga, Zola Trio.
NORTHAMPTON NEW THEATRE (rehearsal, 12).—"1000 Miles a Minute," Harry Gribben, Campbell and Scott, The Provosts, Thornton Trio, W. Churchill, Dorothy Mullar, Lawrence Barclay.
PLYMOUTH PALACE THEATRE (rehearsal, 1).—Alfred Lester, Leonie Dixon, Adams Trio, Shirley and Ransome, Jack Barker, Zakaree Ernakov, and Bruce Green.
READING PALACE THEATRE (rehearsal, 1).—Panki Bros., Helen Toray, Gibbon Duo, Barts Trio, Anderson and Nash, Syd Bray, Mabel Mavis, Adam Tomlinson.
SALFORD REGENT (rehearsal, 12).—Nellie Wallace, Harold Heath, Tom E. Hood, The Nippones, Haines and Bothwick, George Hilton, McVey and Scott, Little Sadie, Winifred Ward, De Wynne Bros., and Bioscope.
SOUTHPORT PALLADIUM.—Tom Foy, Alva York, Carlisle and Wellmon, Bosco and Holden, Bros. Artios, James and Grace Ross, Claymore Trio.
TAUNTON LYCEUM NEW THEATRE (rehearsal, 1).—Marquid de Gonza and Lady, Wray and Wicks, Hynd's Roosters, and company as booked.
TUNBRIDGE WELLS OPERA HOUSE.—Boung, Dillons, Dean and Domer, Lillian French, Carney and Sharpe, Dancit, Lulu Bray, Sam Hilton.
YORK EMPIRE (rehearsal, 1).—Mr. Fred Karno's company in "Dental Institute," including Bob Selvidge, Law and East, Lane and Dale Trio, We Two, and The Taffies.

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Arthur Preston's comedy act "The Terrible Doings of Flanagan," scored a big hit at Moss's Empire, Belfast, on Monday.

The Brothers Webb gave their services on the evening of the 13th for the Chums Concert Party, deputising for the Sisters Webb, who were at the Empire, Rochdale. The famous musical clowns played for their first turn the overture to "Poet and Peasant," and for the second Verdi's "Il Trovatore." Both numbers were very successful.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester gave a luncheon on Monday in the Town Hall in honour of the visit of Mr. Arthur Bouchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh. The Shakespeare Tercentenary was talked of afterwards, and it was mentioned that one of the features of the Manchester celebrations is a competition for a prize of five guineas for the best suggestions for popularising Shakespeare. Mr. Bouchier announced that Miss Violet Vanbrugh would be proud to be allowed to give this prize, and this offer was cordially accepted by Mrs. Leo Grindon and others on behalf of the Manchester Shakespearean Tercentenary Association.

Doring's Pigeons are having a great career. Three years since the act was introduced to London at the Surrey, and has since played two seasons at the London Hippodrome, it has been twice to the Holborn Empire and twice to the Strand Palace. It is again rebuked for the Variety Controlling Tour and the Macnaghten's Circuit, and for a number of Moss' Empire. This refreshing novelty has been pioneered by Will Oliver.

THEATRE FOLK SAY:

No more German Grease Paint. Leichner is completely superseded, and besides contributing to Professional Charities

Boots' British Grease Paint is the Best we ever used.

Boots the Chemists are supplying the best grease paint ever used by the profession in 4d. (size of Leichner's 6d.) and 1/- giant sticks, giving 3d. on each 4d. stick to the Professional Charities, and 1 1/2d. on giant size.

£120 has already been sent in advance.

Ask for Boots' British Grease Paints at principal branches in 200 Towns; or send 2s. for six 4d., or 3s. for three Giant Sticks to Boots, M.O. Nottingham.

Issued by Boots' Pure Drug Co., Ltd.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

DEATHS.

ALLEN.—Feb. 13, Ed. D. Allen, in his 54th year. Ten years' S. M. and Producer T.E. Stock Co., Breck-road, Liverpool. Deeply regretted.

GARCIA.—Feb. 13, at 196, Sutherland-avenue, Maida Vale, W., Emily Mathilda Anne, the beloved wife of Gustav Garcia, of this address.

ROUND.—At the Ferns, New Malden, of acute bronchitis, Feb. 4, 1915, of Oliver John Round, age 33, son of the late Henry Round (of Liverpool) and brother of Mrs. Fred Emney. Inserted by his loving wife.

IN MEMORIAM.
CALVERT (late Rose and Calvert).—In ever-loving memory of my darling, Frank, who passed away in Bombay, Feb. 18, 1913. Gone, but never forgotten by his wife, Nell.

CAMPBELL.—In fond memory of my dearly-loved husband, Denis Campbell, who fell asleep on Feb. 19, 1909. So sadly missed by his wife, Annie Barclay. Rest in peace.

WEBB.—In affectionate remembrance of John Webb, who passed away at Napsbury, Feb. 21, 1913. Not forgotten by his wife, Nellie V. Warden.

FOR SYMPATHY.
Through this medium we thank all friends and relatives who so kindly sent wreaths, flowers, and sympathetic messages on the occasion of the death of Edmund Forman. His sorrowing wife and daughter, Eva and Grace Forman, 42, Cambridge-road, Hammersmith.

DEATH OF MR. EDWARD WULFF.
With deepest regret we announce the death of Mr. Edward Charles Wulff, late lessee of "Cirque Royal," Bruxelles, Hengler's Cirque, and Crystal Palace, London, who passed peacefully away on Feb. 4 at Copenhagen, Denmark, in the sixty-third year of his age. He was devotedly attended to the last by his wife, Maude Wulff, the well-known haute école equestrienne (daughter of the late Louis Francisco, of Hengler's Cirque). Beloved and highly respected, possessed of great talents and ability, his loss will be keenly felt by all who knew him. He leaves a widow, and three sons to mourn a loving husband and the best of fathers.

Mr. Solwyn Dennis continued his series of recruiting lectures last week at Scarborough, when on Thursday the chair was taken by the mayor. Mr. Dennis's remarks, giving his own actual experiences in the trenches, were listened to with interest by a large audience. Over thirty men enlisted as a result of the meeting.

Mr. Dick Kendall, a comedian, and brother to clever Miss Marie Kendall, is now with the Sportsman's Battalion.

At the top of the bill here this week is Mr. William Powell's great aquatic revue entitled "The Lovely Limit," by J. P. Harrington, and, judging by the packed state of the house when our representative called in on Monday evening, the seating capacity of this hall will be severely taxed during the week. The revue is presented in four scenes, Scene I, consisting of a series of artistic aquatic poses by Miss Lily Smith, the famous lady swimmer, and her sisters. In Scene II, we are taken to Spooneyville-on-Sea. Here we are introduced to Bill Smithers, who has taken the wife and kiddies for a day at the seaside, and has "accidentally" given them the slip in order to have a good time with the beautiful bery of promenaders, swimmers, flappers, etc. With the help of many disguises he succeeds in having the time of his life. In Scene III, we are taken to the "Lovers' Retreat," whilst in Scene IV, "By the Sea," Miss Lily Smith gives her wonderful swimming exhibition, the aquatic sports in this scene and the grand finale being enthusiastically acclaimed by the audience.

Chief honours go to Miss Lily Smith and her assistants in the aquatic sports. Miss Doris Joy made a hit as Rosie, and won immediate recognition for her duet with Harry, whilst her song, "I never knew," evoked loud applause.

Harry Mountjoy had an excellent representative in Mr. Gerald Williams, and Mr. Barry Scott as Capt. Dash brought the house down with his fine song, "When Tommy and Jack come marching home," the parade before the Union Jack with flags of all nations giving it quite a unique touch. Miss Nora Gorman as Millicent was well cast, whilst Misses Dorothy Steadman, Blanche Lennox, Maude Evans, Gwendoline Smith, and Bertha Whittier did well in their respective parts. Mr. Tom Reno as Bill Smithers was ludicrously funny, being well assisted by Mr. Bob Evans as Macpherson (fra Dundee), who has an excellent number containing parodies on well-known songs.

The revue should prove another winner, plenty of humour, bright music, and pretty dances being the rule. A word of praise is due to the efficiency of the orchestra, under the baton of Mr. W. O. Smith, whilst Mr. Austin Anderson ably looks after the management of the house.

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"The Era"

CIGARETTE FUND

For Our Soldiers and Sailors.

Through the kind assistance we have received we have been able to send just upon **800,000 Cigarettes** to our gallant Soldiers and Sailors at the Front, and to the Hospitals and our Camps in England, but still more are needed.

By collecting **£10** you will enable us to send **20,000** cigarettes.

WILL YOU HELP to send a further consignment next week?

Arrangements have now been made with the Société Job by which a consignment of Cigarettes may be sent to any Regiment at the request of the Theatre Manager or Artiste collecting,

AND

Cigarettes will be banded with the name of the Theatre or Artiste collecting where the sum sent in in any one week reaches **£10**.

THE SOCIÉTÉ JOB 3, DENMAN STREET, PICCADILLY CIRCUS, W.

in accordance with "The Era's" arrangement with this firm, add as their own gift

20,000 Cigarettes to every 80,000 Ordered.

Will the ladies and gentlemen who are kindly collecting for this Fund be so good as to inform us by Monday morning the amounts they have collected so that due acknowledgment can be made of all sums received to date in the next issue of "The Era."

MR. MAURICE ARIOSO.

ROYAL OPERA TENOR AND SANDOW GOLD MEDALLIST.

The Belgian refugees who have swarmed to these shores before the ruthless invader include few more interesting personalities than Mr. A. Maurice Hanneuse, Baron de Castelberg, who under the name of Maurice Arioso has won an enviable reputation in his own country as an operatic tenor. He is held in the highest estimation by his compatriot Eugène Ysaÿe, Master of the King's Music, and the distinguished violinist refers to him as a vocalist of remarkable talent. Mr. Arioso has the added distinction of being First Gold Medallist in the Sandow Institute of Physical Culture, a trophy which he won in the recent international competition. Though of average height, Mr. Arioso is of splendid physique, his chest measurement being 45 inches. He speaks ten different languages fluently, and thus has the advantage of being able to render all the operas in the native tongue.

Mr. Arioso was a pupil of M. Massenet in Paris, and subsequently studied under the late M. Tinel, Director of the Brussels Conservatoire. The Sandow methods, he declares, are greatly beneficial for the breathing and not only enable one to resist bodily ills, but keep one's spirits at the highest level. He cannot speak too highly of the exercises, to his practice of which he chiefly ascribes the power of his voice, which enables him to get the high C with ease from the chest. Mr. Arioso has a most extensive repertoire and can sing from memory "Pagliacci," "Tosca," "La Bohème," "Faust," "Aida," and all the most celebrated operatic roles.

The life of Mr. Arioso has not been lacking in adventure. Son of the late Oscar F. Hanneuse, Baron de Castelberg, who was Belgian Plenipotentiary in Egypt, he has travelled extensively. As second lieutenant in the French expedition to Morocco he was in action several times, and was promoted on the field for capturing a Moroccan flag while suffering from a wound in the head, the scar from which he still bears. Coming to this country when the Germans entered Brussels, Mr. Arioso obtained a position as examiner in the censorship office, where his knowledge of languages was of especial value. Accustomed as he

was to outdoor pastimes, the work proved too irksome, and the many stories of German outrages on his countrymen, which continuously passed under his eye, affected him so deeply that he gave up the position and determined to put his vocal talents to use on the operatic or lyric stage. He would have joined the Belgian



(Photo by Wakefield's, Ealing, W. Published by Rotary Co., Ltd., West Drayton.)

MR. MAURICE ARIOSO.
Belgian Royal Opera Tenor (Sandow Gold Medallist of Physical Culture).

Army, but for the fact that that gallant force had been so depleted of men that they had more than enough officers, while he was unable to take a commission in the British Army until he had become naturalised.

A wealthy man before the war, owning a castle in Belgium, standing in a hundred and fifty acres of ground, with park and farms, Mr. Arioso has now practically lost everything. He managed, however, to save a number of valuable heirlooms, one of which is a parchment dealing with the battle of Austerlitz, with the gold ring which Napoleon used to seal it. He has all his family papers together with the parchment creating his great-grandfather a Knight of the Military Order of St. Louis, dated 1816. The title is hereditary, and gives the present owner the right to its use. He has also several decorations from his campaigns and others given to his father by King Leopold, and among his treasures are a medal sent by Napoleon from St. Helena, and the decoration conferred on those who took part in the famous taking of the Bastille in 1789, which was given to his ancestor. The photograph given herewith shows the Star of France, La Grande Plaque du Prix Humanitaire, which was bestowed upon Mr. Arioso as a reward for having restored to its proper owner the sum of 17,000 francs and shares which he had found. He received the Gold Medal of Honour for the same service from Belgium. In addition to his other accomplishments, Mr.

Arioso can boast that of dramatist, as he has written two plays, entitled "Queen Alena" and "Sorella," which have been represented many times in the South of France. He is a keen lover of sport, and has won prizes for rowing and riding horses. In his own country he was one of the pioneers of that essentially English game cricket, and is a leading member of the well-known Anglo-Belgian C.C. Since he has been over here he has organised several concerts for English and Belgian charities which have been patronised by no less exalted personages than the Queen of the Belgians and Princess Napoleon, and is quite prepared when disengaged to do so again.

THEATRE GIRLS AT HOME.

"Come to tea with the girls." Such an invitation could not be resisted, and on Saturday afternoon last the writer found himself outside the newly-established Theatre Girls' Club at 5, Little Portland-street, Oxford-circus, and noted a procession of ladies entering the building. The fear of being the only male person present seized upon him, and he fled. An hour later, with courage revived, he again approached the portals of the building and ventured in. He was welcomed by Mrs. Edward Compton, the chairwoman of the committee, and then given in charge of "one of the girls," who conducted him over the building. Rows of beds in long dormitories, dress baskets and hampers, giving unmistakable evidence of the profession which the members of the club followed; dainty dressing-tables, and over all a matron in spick-and-span uniform. Below in the recreation room music and merry-making.

This At Home was very successful. The Duchess of Bedford, who opened the club a few weeks ago, again honoured the institution by her presence, and among those who accepted invitations were Mrs. Kendal, Miss Mary Moore, Lady Mount-Stephen, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Vane Featherston, Mrs. Alfred Bishop, Mrs. Fred Wright, Miss Cecilia Loftus, Miss Margaret Fraser, Miss Esme Beringer, Miss Victoria Addison, and Miss Francis Wetherall.

Every provision is made for the comfort of the girls. There are few restrictions, and smoking is prohibited only in the dormitories. The institution accommodates 25 girls, and the house is full up. Nearly all the furniture has been either lent or given, and everybody has been most generous. There are still some requirements, and a list displayed on the wall makes it known that the telephone, a typewriter, a clothes-horse, and articles of domestic utility would be gratefully accepted. The resident secretary is Miss Potter, who had the distinction of being the first lady to act as a theatrical advance agent, and toured the provinces in front of "The Attack" last summer, and the matron is Miss Austin, who has been a front-of-the-house employee at a theatre in Manchester.

It should be added that the profits of an afternoon of court and country dances, which Miss Nellie Chaplin will give on Thursday, Feb. 25, will be devoted to the club.

Esme Percy and Kirsteen Graeme will, during the seasons that they have arranged at Birmingham, Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh, offer the playgoer programmes of more than usual interest. The company will produce seventeen modern plays, starting off at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre with a week of Arnold Bennett's plays, "Cupid and Common Sense" and "The Honeymoon," which will be followed by Zangwill's "The Melting Pot," Bernard Shaw's "The Doctor's Dilemma" and "Man and Superman," Galsworthy's "Joy" and the new play, "The Little Man," which the author has specially asked Mr. Percy to produce for the first time.

DEATH OF ALGERNON SYMS.

We regret to announce the death, on Wednesday night last, of Algernon Syms, who was for twenty years leading man at the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, and during a long stage career had probably played more principal parts than any other



MR. ALGERNON SYMS
(as The Master of the Mill).

actor in England. In London and on tour he appeared in practically the whole of the Wilson Barrett, Terriss, and Warner parts; and in addition to acting the principal roles in many Adelphi and Drury Lane dramas, appeared also in "The Sign of the Cross," "The Prisoner of Zenda," "Captain Swift," "A Man's Shadow," &c. Mr. Syms, who was in his seventy-first year, was born at Teignmouth, South Devon, where his parents kept a famous coaching house known as the Exeter Inn. The family removing to London, Mr. Syms was apprenticed as a printer in the office of the City Chamberlain. During his apprenticeship he became a member of an amateur dramatic club, first appearing as Charley Bates in "Oliver Twist," and as Sir Walter Blunt in "King Henry IV., Second Part." In 1873 Mr. Syms determined to adopt the stage as a profession, and obtained an engagement at the Grecian Theatre to play the Italian in "Across the Continent," the star being Mr. Cahill. This engagement lasted six weeks, during which Mr. Conquest was playing Snaefell at the Gaiety. But when the manager returned to his own theatre he offered Mr. Syms a permanent engagement, which was not interrupted for nine years, when the Grecian, having meantime passed into the hands of Mr. Clark, became, in August, 1882, the property of the Salvation Army.

Mr. Syms then rejoined his old manager, Mr. Conquest, at the Surrey, appearing notably in that extraordinary play "For Ever." At the end of the season he went to Sanger's for the pantomime, playing Hodge the Hunter, twice a day for eight weeks. For the ensuing five months

Mr. Syms was leading man at the Elephant and Castle; and then he took part in productions of "It's Never Too Late to Mend" and "Love and Money," at the Marylebone. Mr. Charles Roade and Mr. Henry Pettitt organised a tour with the last-named piece, which began on Bank Holiday, 1883, and lasted six months, Mr. Syms being the leading man. During the early part of 1884 Mr. Syms appeared under Mr. Andrew Melville's management at Swansea, notably in a production of "Through my Heart First."

Mr. Syms next opened at the Britannia as Richard Orchardson in "Storm Beaten"; and at the Britannia he remained for many years, playing some hundreds of parts in the legitimate and in almost every modern melodrama. During the pantomime seasons Mr. Syms used to organise a sketch company, with an extensive repertoire of short plays, which greatly appealed to music hall audiences. After the Britannia was sold Mr. Syms joined the Melvilles, appearing in "Her Second Time on Earth," "The Worst Woman in London," &c. He last appeared on tour in "Fanny's First Play."

The deceased actor was a member of the original Volunteer Force when it was founded more than fifty years ago, and was also a member of the Council of the Actors' Benevolent Fund and of the Council of the Actors' Association. A Freemason and a Past Master, he was granted "London Rank" in 1912. The funeral took place yesterday in the family grave at Abney Park Cemetery.

YOUNG PLAYERS IN SHAKESPEARE.

A dramatic reading of "The Merchant of Venice" by the Young Players (a repertory company for children) was given at the Passmore Edwards Settlement, Tavistock-place, on Sunday.

"The Merchant of Venice" had been specially condensed and arranged by Mr. Clive Currie to suit the requirements of a reading; and a synopsis of the scenes was announced by Mr. Hector Stuart. With the exception of Shylock and Tubal all the characters were played by young girls of various ages, and their performance won the favourable verdict of the large audience present. A particularly graceful and charming impersonation was the Portia of Miss Sylvia Cecil. Miss Rayven Wing also did very well as Lorenzo, while Miss Dorothy St. John was a pleasing though somewhat subdued Jessica. Excellent work was done by Miss Enid Haydon as Antonio, Miss Ecca Van Leer as Bassanio, and Miss Corrie Telford as Gratiano. Miss Suzanne Hudson doubled the parts of the Duke of Venice and Prince of Morocco, and in the Casket scene she spoke her lines with spirit and good effect. Miss Ruby Mitchell was a courtly Prince of Arragon, and Miss Violet Fauchaux was quite a smart Nerissa. Miss Sadie Cecil (who also represented Stephano) as Old Gobbo and Miss Dela Pointer as Lancelot played their scene with commendable briskness and humour.

Mr. J. Alexander's new patriotic number, "Soldier, I am waiting by the door," is meeting with great success as performed by Mr. Alexander's Empire Opera Singers. The number is published by Beal, Sturtevant and Co., 231, Oxford-street.

Copies of Mr. Harold Simpson's powerful poem, "Unconquerable," which is being recited with unqualified success by a great number of people, can be obtained from "The Era" office at 10, each, the proceeds being divided between "The Era," "War-Districts Fund," and the "Daily Telegraph" Shilling Fund for Belgium.

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THEATRICAL GOSSIP

Sir George Alexander has undertaken to make a collection of theatrical souvenirs and mementoes to be included in a sale of artistic and other objects which the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Association have decided to hold early next month, at Messrs. Christie, Manson and Woods, for the benefit of the joint fund. Sir George will be glad to receive at the St. James's Theatre articles having intimate association with eminent playwrights, actors, and actresses (past and present), such as manuscripts, letters, portraits, prints, swords, jewellery, etc., used by them on the stage, or associated with them in private life. When the collection is complete, an exhibition of these theatrical souvenirs will be given at the St. James's Theatre with the names of the donors marked thereon.

Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson will give a benefit performance at the Walker Theatre, Winnipeg, on the opening night of his farewell engagement on Monday next, the entire receipts of which will be devoted to a war fund. The Duke of Connaught was asked to designate the fund to which the money should be devoted, and the following reply was received by Mr. Percy Burton, Sir Johnston's manager:—"His Royal Highness suggests Canadian Patriotic Fund. Their Royal Highnesses only too glad to give their patronage. Am informing Lieutenant Governor at Winnipeg, and asking him to help in any way he can."

While in San Francisco the eminent actor and his company gave a special matinee on Christmas Day for the benefit of the Fund for Homeless Belgians. Jerome K. Jerome, the author of the play given, and Mr. John Cort, whose theatre was used on that occasion, gave their share of the proceeds. Sir Johnston has also been able to raise considerable money by selling his autographed photographs for one dollar, the receipts of which are devoted to the Prince of Wales' National Relief Fund.

Mr. Cyril Maude was unanimously re-elected president at the twenty-first annual general meeting of the Theatrical Managers' Association, held in the Adelaide Room at Gaiety on Friday. Mr. Fred Terry and Mr. Tom B. Davis were elected vice-presidents, and Mr. J. P. Elliston and Mr. W. B. Redfern were also reappointed to the same positions. Mr. Herbert Blackmore was re-elected secretary. The principal speakers at the meeting were Mr. Tom B. Davis, Mr. Milton Bode, Mr. J. M. Glover, Mr. Fred W. Warden, Mr. Michael Faraday, Mr. F. W. Wyndham, and Mr. J. P. Elliston.

The fact that the annual subscription has been raised from three guineas to ten guineas has, we are informed, in no way affected the stability of the Association, only two or three members having retired on that account. After the meeting a dinner took place, and the information imparted by Mr. J. P. Graham, Mr. Fred W. Warden, and Mr. Blaiberg proved most entertaining.

Miss Ellen Terry has decided to have the operation on her eyes performed in England, and is sailing home immediately. In a characteristic letter to her daughter, Miss Edith Craig, the distinguished actress writes:—"I have come to the conclusion that the two safest places in the world are the middle of London and the middle of Berlin, and I am going to choose the middle of London. Things are terribly bad theatrically in New York," she adds. "Everybody is sending money to Belgium—a splendid cause—but nobody is going to the theatre."

Two powerful melodramas, both of which have been running in New York since August last, have been acquired by Mr. George Grossmith and Mr. E. Laursen for eventual production in London. They are respectively entitled "On Trial" and "Under Cover," the former written by Elmer L. Reizenstein and produced at the Candler Theatre, and the latter by Roi Cooper Megrue, and produced at the Cort Theatre.

The Queen, Queen Alexandra, and Princess Mary, with Prince Albert, attended the special matinee of "The Sleeping Beauty Beautified" at Drury Lane on Thursday, when upwards of three thousand boys and girls, children of soldiers and sailors who are now on active service, were entertained. The youngsters made a very appreciative audience, and were highly delighted at the comicalities of Mr. George Graves and Mr. Will Evans. During the interval Mr. Graves was sent for and presented to the Queen, while Princess Mary and Prince Albert went behind the scenes, and became very interested in the working of the machinery.

The run of "La Kommandatur" at the Criterion has been extended for another week, the play finishing on Saturday next. In addition to the Wednesday and Saturday matinees there will be a special matinee on Friday, at which members of the profession will have an opportunity of seeing the Belgian company in the engrossing play.

"Betty" of which "The Era" gave a review on its production by Mr. George Edwards in Manchester on Christmas Eve, will follow "A Country Girl" at Daly's immediately after Easter. Mr. G. P. Huxley, Mr. W. H. Barry, and Miss Winifred Barnes will be seen in the principal parts.

Owing to the absence of Miss Millie Sim from the cast of "Odds and Ends" at the Ambassadors Theatre, for the latter part of last week, through an attack of influenza, her part in the revue was taken by Miss Elsie Margretson, who proved herself an admirable substitute. Miss Margretson is the possessor of a charming appearance, an excellent sense of humour, and is full of vivacity and youth. One of the principal features of the excellent programme at the Ambassadors' is the wonderful acting of the tiny Mimi Hanako in "Otake." It is a great performance, and should not be missed by any able to appreciate genius.

At the New Theatre, Port Talbot, on Friday evening, Mr. Charles Windermere, who, as Grumpy, had been appearing in the play of that name throughout the week, was presented with a handsome cigarette case by some admirers of his performance. Mr. Edward Furness, the manager of the theatre, in making the presentation, said Mr. Windermere had created a great impression, and they hoped to have a return visit shortly.

Mr. Windermere, who was received with loud applause from a crowded house, thanked his friends sincerely for the beautiful gift, and complimented the people of Port Talbot on having Mr. Furness as manager of their pretty theatre. As long as the management maintained their present standard he was sure the New Theatre, Port Talbot, would rank with the leading provincial houses. What was most gratifying to him as the manager of the company was the fact that the receipts justified the visit, and he would promise the audience he would be most pleased to pay a return.

While the question, "Does grand opera pay?" is being so frequently asked, the Moody-Manners company is supplying a convincing answer by its eight weeks' season of opera in English which terminates this week at Kelly's Theatre, Liverpool. So successful has the engagement been that Mr. Manners has signed a contract to go back at Christmas for a ten weeks' season. It should be added that if there is to be no Italian or other grand opera season in London this year, Mr. Manners is prepared to entertain an offer from some enterprising manager with a suitable theatre to run another grand opera season in English at the termination of his provincial tour.

Mr. W. W. Kelly's services in the cause of charity in Liverpool have been so conspicuous of late that his testimonial benefit on Friday will be supported by a number of well-known people. The Shakespeare pantomime, "Red Riding Hood"—which comes to an end on the succeeding evening—will be the staple attraction, and among those who have promised specially to appear are: Mr. Charles Manners, Mr. George Lashwood, Miss Clara Beck, Miss May Tomlinson, and Messrs. Farr and Farland.

The dramatic season at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, begins on Monday with Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's production of "Sapho," and among the numerous other popular bookings are Mr. Harold V. Neilson's presentation of the English version of "La Kommandatur," "The Chocolate Soldier," "The Belle of New York," and "The Lady Slavey."

The initial attraction of the spring season at Kelly's Theatre on Monday next will be Miss Edith St. Clare's pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe." To the Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, there comes Mr. Sam Livesey in "A Heritage of Hate."

Mr. Martin Harvey conducted a special campaign in the interests of recruiting last week at the Opera House, Leicester, where he delivered an address at the fall of the curtain each night. This week he is visiting the Theatre Royal, Hanley, for the second time, his first appearance in the Potteries centre having been made three years ago. The reception accorded to Mr. Harvey on Monday night was enthusiastic in the extreme, and the business promises to establish a record.

It is good to learn that the presents which are sent to the troops at the front, and to which the theatrical profession have so liberally contributed, are thoroughly appreciated. Captain Leonard Rayne, the well-known actor, writes thus:—"Having just returned from German South-West Africa, where I have been assisting in the distribution of Christmas gifts for the troops, I wish to express the gratitude of the men for the cheery messages and substantial gifts received from those at home in the Union. I can assure the public that the gifts have helped to brighten the lives of those who are giving their all for their country."

An appreciation of the moral of the men is also given by Captain Rayne:—"Though the men are confident," he says, "there is no tendency to degenerate into slackness in the slightest degree. The discipline is splendid. Let us not forget the boys away right through the struggle. They must know the people are working for them—with them in spirit always. They are fighting for the 'cause.'"

The enterprise of Mr. Alban B. Limpus in engaging so eminent an artist as Miss Irene Vanbrugh for his tour of "The Land of Promise" is having gratifying results and excellent business is being done. The company is at Cardiff this week, and will be seen next week at Kennington, following on to the King's, Hammersmith. Subsequently, in the order mentioned, come the Marlborough, Holloway; the Theatre Royal, Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Liverpool.

Miss Ruby Hetherwick, who is playing Juliette in "The Glad Eye," on Friday, at the Walthamstow Palace Theatre, owing to the sudden indisposition of Miss Billie Sinclair, undertook the part of Kiki at a minute's notice. Although not the understudy for the part Miss Hetherwick was quite successful, and played it again on Saturday at both houses.

The son of the late W. S. Penley, of "Charley's Aunt" fame, is among the members of the Naval Brigade interned in Holland, and relieves the monotony of the surroundings by arranging a concert troupe, and the costumes, scenery, etc., according to a correspondent, are excellent. "We have a concert every Monday," he adds, "and the talent is very good."

Moss' Empires have secured some sound attractions for the spring season at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross. The list includes "The Girl in the Taxi," "The Pearl Girl," "Outcast," "Sealed Orders," "The Dancing Mistress," "The Girl From Utah," the St. Nicholas Society in "Florodora," "The Cinema Star," "Little Lord Fauntleroy," and "Young Buffalo."

The success of the fourth repertory season at the Winter Gardens, New Brighton, is quite remarkable. It was intended that the present season should conclude on Saturday, but in response to a general request Mr. Douglas has arranged to extend the time by another week, and "A Song Little Kingdom" will be produced on Monday next. The company includes Messrs. John Richter, Ernest Bodkin, Ernest C. Cassel, Ian Fleming, Ernest Watts-Tye, J. A. Keogh, W. E. Stirling, and Eric Barber, Misses Florence Stevenson, Alice Mansfield, Elsie Goulding, Frances Waring, Dora Mason, Margaret Vaughan, and Kitty Keogh.

After the final performance of the present revival of "The Silver Box" at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre on Saturday, the company will start a five or six weeks' tour, taking examples of their work to Wolverhampton, Croydon, Brighton, and Leamington. During the first week of their absence the theatre will be filled by a London company in "Caste," which will be succeeded by Mr. Esme Percy's company with a two or three weeks' repertory season.

A fortnight ago we announced that Mr. Louis Hillier had acquired the English rights of the Criterion success, "La Kommandatur." Last week, however, we published a paragraph stating that Mr. Harold V. Neilson held all the London and suburban rights besides some of the principal towns of England.

In order to set right this seeming contradiction we append a letter which we have received from Mr. Neilson, who writes: "In your issue of Wednesday last there appeared a statement that I held the London rights of 'La Kommandatur.' This is an error, as the rights of the play, which I hold, are those of the principal London suburban theatres and provincial towns. I hold these rights by arrangement with Mr. Louis Hillier." Two estimable gentlemen are now, we trust, satisfied.

"The Era" has a larger circulation than that of any other theatrical or variety journal published in the United Kingdom.

"WHEN THERE WAS WAR."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Joseph M. Wharmell, for the First Time in London, at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, on Monday, Feb. 15. Captain Arthur Leigh... Mr. Albert Grenville... Lieut. Edward Freshwater... Mr. Jack Armitage... Private Jim Shallum... Mr. Wallace Black... Colonel Carruthers... Mr. J. L. Inglis... Captain Fritz Baumgarten... Mr. James Jarrett... Groose... Mr. Henry E. Jones... Max... Mr. Francis Cavan... Lillian Carruthers... Miss Nina Harding... Bessie Banks... Miss Nina Harding... Marie... Miss Maggie Sadler... Gretchen Gesser... Miss Hilda Beverley. Produced at Gravesend on Sept. 28 last, this piece made its initial appearance in the metropolis on Monday at Mr. Fred Fredericks's popular melodrama theatre, and was very favourably received by a large audience.

As the title implies, the piece deals with the present crisis, but is chiefly concerned with the German espionage system presumed to exist in this country. Interwoven there is the interesting love story of a young British officer, Captain Arthur Leigh, who becomes enamoured of and marries Lillian Carruthers. On the declaration of war the captain returns from Belgium to England, where he is quartered, and in this country makes the discovery that his wife is the long-lost daughter of the famous Colonel Carruthers, of the British Secret Service. This fact is also known to one Gretchen Gesser, a dangerous German spy, who with a ready accomplice in Captain Fritz Baumgarten is a cause of much concern to the British authorities. These two plot the murder of Colonel Carruthers, and the fell deed is duly carried through, but the designs of Baumgarten on the fair Lillian are frustrated through the girl's escape. About this time Captain Leigh is ordered on service, and thus has to leave without news of his wife, who, however, patriotically utilises her past nursing knowledge and becomes a Red Cross nurse, and in this way wife and husband meet at the wireless station near Harwich, where Captain Leigh is in charge, and where wounded are to be brought. To this wireless station comes Gretchen Gesser, cleverly disguised as an old woman, and temporarily the captain falls into her power and that of Fritz Baumgarten, who desires to use the station for signalling purposes. Fortunately they are foiled again, but they escape, and are next heard of at Captain Leigh's house in London, whence the captain has returned after an adventurous and gallant sojourn at the front. By this time, however, the two spies have run their tether, and the end sees the captain and his wife reunited, with the prophetic prospect of an early termination of the war owing to the complete rout of the enemy.

Miss Hilda Beverley's company is responsible for the interpretation of the piece, which is staged and dressed with much care. Miss Hilda Beverley's ripe experience enables her to do full justice to the part of the spy, Gretchen Gesser, who is thus an object of extreme aversion to the more susceptible among the audience. Mr. Albert Grenville is a virile and soldierly Captain Arthur Leigh, whose many patriotic lines are delivered with point and emphasis. Mr. James Jarrett plays very powerfully in the unthankful rôle of the sinister Captain Fritz Baumgarten. Miss Nina Harding is a charming Lillian Carruthers, and she acts convincingly. Mr. Jack Armitage is fully in the picture as the phlegmatic and interesting Lieut. "Teddy" Freshwater. Mr. Wallace Black extracts unlimited humour from the part of Private Jim Shallum, much of his good work being in conjunction with Miss Mary Brammer, a vivacious and amusing Bessie Banks. Mr. J. L. Inglis makes a dignified and effective Colonel Carruthers, and in minor rôles Mr. Francis Cavan as Max, Mr. Henry E. Jones as Groose, and Miss Maggie Sadler as Marie all do well.

Our Carlisle correspondent writes:—"Mr. Ernest Stevens, of the Marlborough Theatre, London, has completed negotiations with Mr. Sidney Bacon, and takes over his interest in Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle, from August Bank Holiday next. Mr. Bacon states that the financial results of his tenancy have been entirely satisfactory, and his sole reason for giving up the house is to be able to devote his whole time and energy to the moving picture business, in which he is now largely interested."

Interesting replies from leading dramatists on the subject of film plays have been elicited by a series of questions put by the "Kinematograph and Lantern Weekly," and are printed in last week's issue. The question that most closely affects the theatrical profession is whether the film drama will successfully compete with the drama of the legitimate stage. The question is replied to in various ways. Sir Arthur Pinero begs to be excused from answering it, while Mr. Jerome K. Jerome declares that he would rather listen to the human voice than read the most heart-thrilling explanations on a screen.

Mr. Edward Knoblauch believes that the film is certainly a great competitor to the theatre, but a really first-class play, well acted, has drawing powers which a film will never be able to attain. Mr. Israel Zangwill, Mr. Alfred Sutro, and Mr. Louis N. Parker also contribute to the discussion, while Mr. Arnold Bennett gives to the question a direct negative.

A special attraction at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, this week will be the appearance at a matinee on Thursday of the Belgian players, under M. Carlo Lilen, in Verhaeren's masterpiece, "Le Cioffre." Patrons of the neighbouring Gaiety Theatre will remember an impressive production of the same play there in English, in which Mr. William Peel appeared in the tragic central part. A big attendance is anticipated.

On Friday there will be an important matinee at the Manchester Hippodrome, in aid of the beneficial activities of the Arts Fund. The event is under the management of Mr. Lionel Atwill, of the Gaiety Theatre, and a capital programme includes artists from the Royal, Prince's, Gaiety, and New Theatres, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier in "A Marriage Has Been Arranged."

We record with regret the death in London on Sunday at the age of 82 of the wife of Mr. Gustave Garcia, the son of Manuel Garcia, the famous teacher of singing. Mrs. Garcia, who was of Spanish descent, was well known as a brilliant soprano about half a century ago, when, as Lina Marcolini, she sang at Covent Garden and in various Continental cities. Mr. Gustave Garcia has worthily followed his father's profession and is still teaching at the Royal College of Music.

One of the events of a "Wounded Allies' Day," which the Relief Committee bearing that name is organising for March 2, will be a performance at the Court Theatre of "The Adventure of Lady Urrah" by members of the Wyndham Club. The performance is under the patronage of the Japanese Ambassador, the Belgian and Serbian Ministers, and other influential people.

"MRS. THOMPSON."

Play, in Four Acts, by the late Sydney Grundy. Adapted from the Novel by W. B. Maxwell. Produced at the Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield, on Monday, Feb. 8.

Mrs. Thompson... Mrs. Langtry... Bence... Mr. Frank Ainslie... Collins... Mr. Gilbert Ritchie... Fentiman... Mr. Reginald Royce... Johnson... Mr. Percy Murray... Fielding... Mr. David Henson... Mears... Mr. Alfred Goddard... Marsden... Mr. Frank Fenton... Miss Yates... Miss Dorothy Wayne... Susan... Miss Miss Frances Holt... Enid... Miss Miss Nettie Westcott... Mr. Prentice... Mr. Martin Sands... Kenyon... Mr. Lambert Plummer.

The stage version of Mr. Maxwell's well-known novel, "Mrs. Thompson," contains vivid types of middle-class London life, and the late Mr. Grundy, with the keen observation of the experienced dramatist, brought the diverse characters into strong relief. The play arouses the interest of the audience immediately, and works up to a surprising denouement.

Mrs. Thompson has been gifted with a strong character and is a woman of the world in the best sense. She has arrived at middle-age, and her handsome exterior and graceful deportment do not belie the true womanly heart that beats within her. The late Mr. Thompson had made a mass of things generally, and his widow, with her charming tact and business ability, ultimately puts the firm of "Thompson's" on a sound basis.

All is going well until Mrs. Thompson—prosperous and in the ripeness of her beauty—falls in love with Mr. Marsden, an awful example of a cadish shop assistant. With all her acumen and knowledge of the world Mrs. Thompson fails to see that the man's "gentility" covers a most vulgar and despicable nature. Marsden jumps at the chance, and the head of "Thompson's" becomes Mrs. Marsden. Enid, her charming daughter, to make matters worse, loses her heart to a "beauty" known as Kenyon, a "gentleman rider," who is a dead-beat and no mistake. After a short experience of married life Enid returns to her mother, and Kenyon squanders the money she had settled on the couple. Mrs. Thompson's plunge into a second marriage is naturally a failure, and after two years her clear brain evolves a scheme to get rid of Marsden, and with the loyal help of her solicitor, Mr. Prentice, and the faithful manager, Mr. Mears, the rascally Marsden receives a lump sum to leave the country.

Mrs. Langtry made a handsome Mrs. Thompson, graceful and winning, and full of womanly dignity when the situation demanded it. In her several toilettes she looked superb, and her charming personality would have made successful a far weaker play. Mrs. Langtry received hearty applause after each act, and she had a very cordial "curtain" at the finish. Mr. Frank Fenton, the producer of the play, acted in a clever manner the despicable Marsden. Mr. Martin Sands submitted a pleasing character study as the genial family solicitor, Mr. Prentice. Miss Westcott was a graceful representative of Enid; Mr. Alfred Goddard was quite convincing as Mears, the manager of "Thompson's," and all the other characters were carefully acted. The mise-en-scène was quite artistic.

"BABY MINE" REVIVED.

On Monday night at the Vaudeville, Miss Margaret Mayo's "screamingly funny farce," "Baby Mine," was revived by Messrs. A. and S. Gatti by arrangement with Mr. Gilbert Porteous. To judge by its reception the revival is evidently a popular one. The producers have been fortunate enough to retain the services of Mr. Weedon Grossmith and Miss Iris Hoey in their original parts. As a piece of pure farical acting it is not easy to surpass Mr. Weedon Grossmith's performance of Jimmy Jinks, the reluctant kidnapper of helpless infants. Over and over again the house rocks with laughter before Mr. Grossmith has spoken a word: the expression of his face is enough. Take, for instance, the trepidation it displays as he enters with the baby concealed under his coat—it is inimitable. Miss Iris Hoey is once again the charming little wife, Zoie Hardy—prettier, daintier, more sparkling than ever. The scene in which she is perpetually hopping in and out of bed is played by Miss Hoey with a very fine sense of humour and great delicacy. Miss Constance Hyem is exceedingly good as Aggie, the willing, but unlucky, adviser. Mr. J. V. Bryant is a pleasantly boyish young husband and gets a tremendous lot of fun out of his part, particularly as the astonished father of triplets. Mr. Charles Neville is really good as an irate Irishman; while Miss Shelley Calton and Miss Agnes Glynn are quite satisfactory in very small parts. The same remark applies to the two remaining members of the cast, Messrs. Arthur G. Leigh and J. R. Toser.

On Monday evening, the Theatre Royal, Norwich, was honoured by a special military night, and the house was packed to witness the spectacular play of the moment, entitled "The Man Who Stayed at Home." It is announced that on Friday evening the Lord Mayor, J. G. Gordon Mann, and the Lady Mayoress, will be present.

"THE ERA" WAR DISTRESS FUND.

Grand total to date ... £1,603 2 6

The Hon. Treasurer gratefully acknowledges the following amounts received since our last issue:—

Amount already acknowledged ... £1,594 15 1

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"MEMORIES."

Play, in One Act, by Cunningham Bridgeman. Produced on Friday, Feb. 12, at the Grand Opera House, Middleborough.

Corporal Pepper... Mr. Douglas Thompson

Tim Tattersole... Mr. Henry Oscar

Jenny... Miss Madge Trenchard

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The curtain rises on the bar-parlour of an ancient inn at Chelsea. The date is Nov. 5, 1905, the anniversary of the Battle of Inkerman. An old pensioner, Corporal Pepper, has dropped in, as is his custom, for his evening glass, and Janny, the barmaid, who has a reverent admiration for the old man, confides in him that she is going to marry a soldier. He admonishes her to be true to her lover, and, being in a reminiscent mood, tells her the great sorrow of his life: how, as a young soldier, the lass he fondly hoped to make his wife jilted him for a "sailor chap."

Jenny tells him that she is the daughter of a sailor, whose wife had deserted him when she (Jenny) was quite a little child, and that her father has never been heard of since. While they are exchanging these confidences, there enters a tramp, to whom they give food and drink. When he is refreshed, Tim Tattersole, as he calls himself, turns out to be an old sailor, who has fallen on evil times, and the two old men discover that they served in the Crimean campaign together, Pepper as a soldier and Tattersole in the Naval Brigade. It eventually transpires that the tramp is none other than the old soldier's victorious rival in his youthful love affair, and that his life has been ruined by his wife's desertion, since when he has been vainly searching for his child. The curtain falls on father and daughter united, and the old soldier is left pondering on whether to make his identity known to his rival or to "let bygones be bygones."

The character of Corporal Pepper, a sturdy old pensioner, was rehearsed by Mr. Ernest E. Ineson, but owing to indisposition Mr. Douglas Thompson was called upon to play the part, and acquitted himself admirably. Mr. Henry Oscar's fine impersonation of Tim Tattersole was a capital character study, and Miss Madge Trenchard made a bright and clever Jenny. The play was well staged and most effectively produced.

A splendid life-sized figure of Rear-Admiral (Acting Vice-Admiral) Sir David Beatty has just been modelled by Mr. John Tussaud, and added to the large and comprehensive group of war celebrities at Madame Tussaud's Exhibition.

Mr. George Mellon, late of the Theatre Royal, Windsor, is lying ill in the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, where he has undergone a serious operation. He asks for a line from old friends. His address is A. Duncan, 11, S. 3 M. Ward.

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"I'll swear upon that bottle."

—Tempest, Act ii, Scene ii.

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"Drink and fear not."

—Henry VI., Act ii, Scene iii.

"A SMALL SPECIAL."

Comedy Sketch, written by Messrs. E. C. Mathews and J. H. Price, Produced on Monday, Feb. 8, at the Grand Theatre, Rastentail.
 "A Small Special," which was produced by Charles Bell, well known for his really funny work in that comic absurdity "The Demon Photographer," deals with the present crisis. A little man of little account thinks he would do better by serving his country as a special constable. He is rejected at first owing to his lack of inches, but after explaining the value of being small, is given a trial. His first duty is to guard a railway bridge, the head of the police having been informed that it is likely to be blown up by German spies. While on guard he is visited by two spies, Herman and Pauline, who endeavour to persuade the special to leave the vicinity. After a time they succeed, and at once commence to follow out their instructions. They are, of course, foiled, for the small special, returning, catches them in the act. With the assistance of officers, both the spies are arrested.

Carrie Johnson, violinist, of the Royal Flemish Conservatoire of Antwerp, had the honour to perform at the Town Hall, Cheltenham, on Feb. 11, at a grand concert in aid of a home inaugurated for Belgian disabled soldiers in Cheltenham, before Princess Napoleon (née Princess Clementine of Belgium), Prince Victor Napoleon, the Duke of Norfolk, K.G., the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, and other notabilities. Carrie's mother is a Belgian lady, but her father is an Englishman.

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ON THE ROAD.

ALL ABOARD.—Feb. 15, King's T., Kirkcaldy; 22,
T.R., Perth.
AN INDIAN GIRL'S DEVOTION.—Feb. 15,
Grand T., Halifax; 22, Hippo, Huddersfield.
BABES IN THE WOOD (VENTON SWIFTS).—
Feb. 15, Grand T., Manchester; 22, Aquarium
T., Yarmouth.
BABY MINE.—Feb. 15, Ashton; 22, Stockport.
BAD WOMAN'S VENGEANCE, A.—Feb. 15, Metro-
pole, Glasgow.
BELLE OF NEW YORK.—Feb. 15, Colchester;
22, Dalton T., N.E.
BETTY.—Feb. 15, King's T., Glasgow.
BLINDNESS OF VIRTUE.—Feb. 15, W.G., Black-
pool.
BONNIE MARY.—Feb. 15, Hippo, Batley.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—Feb. 15, Lyceum T.,
Newport.
CARL ROSA OPERA CO.—Feb. 15, T.R., New-
castle; 22, T.R., Glasgow.
CASSIDY, MR. AND MRS. RICE.—Feb. 15, T.R.,
Aldershot.
CASTELLANO, CAVALIERE, OPERA CO.—
Feb. 15, Bury; 22, Halifax.
CHALMERS, MAKEY.—Feb. 15, Metropole T.,
Gateshead; 22, Metropole T., Glasgow.
CHARLES' AUNT.—Feb. 15, Grand T., South-
ampton; 22, Royal T., Bath.
CHILD OF THE STREETS.—Feb. 15, Met., Glas-
gow.
CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE.—Feb. 15, O.H.,
Coventry.
COASTGUARD'S DAUGHTER.—Feb. 15, Hippo,
Huddersfield; 22, Gaiety T., Halifax.
COLLIER'S LASS, THE.—Feb. 15, Palace, Ears-
town.
COMPTON, MR. EDWARD.—Feb. 15, King's T.,
Sunderland; 22, Grand T., West Hartlepool.
COTTON SPINNER.—Feb. 15, G.T., Stockton.
COUNT OF LUXEMBOURG.—Feb. 15, P.O.W.,
Grimby.
COUNTRY GIRL.—Feb. 15, Princes T., Manches-
ter; 22, New T., Cardiff.
COWBOY'S WEDDING.—Feb. 15, T.R., Sheffield.
DANCING MISTRESS.—Feb. 15, Elliston's, Bol-
ton.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Feb. 15, Grand T.,
Manchester.
DARK SECRET.—Feb. 15, Metropole, Bootle; 22,
Scala T., Seacombe.
DAUGHTER OF ISRAEL, A.—Feb. 15, Palace T.,
Redditch.

DICK WHITTINGTON (JOSEPH).—Feb. 15,
Garrison T., Tidworth.
DICKIE, CLARE.—Feb. 15, Hippo, Hyde.
DIPLOMACY.—Feb. 15, Wimbledon; 22, Ham-
mer-smith.
D'O'LY CARTE OPERA CO.—Feb. 15, Marlboro'
T., Holloway; 22, Marlboro' T., Holloway.
EARL AND THE GIRL (BANNISTER HOWARD
CO.).—Feb. 15, T.R., Leamington (3); N.T.,
Cambridge (3); 22, Court T., Liverpool.
EAST LYNNE (PITT HARDACRE).—Feb. 15,
Empire T., Otley; 22, Grand T., Doncaster.
ELIZA COMES TO STAY.—Feb. 15, T.R., Stock-
port; 22, T.R., Rochdale.
FALLON BY THE WAY.—Feb. 15, Empire, Mid-
dleton; 22, Palace, Rochdale.
FROZEN NORTH.—Feb. 15, O.H., St. Helens.
GARROD, V. V. REPERTORY CO.—Feb. 15,
Borough T., Aberystwyth; 22, Public H.,
Newbridge, Mon.
GAY GOLDONS, THE.—Feb. 15, Court T., Wigan;
22, T.R., Coastbridge.
GENTLEMAN IN KHAKI.—Feb. 15, Royal, Shef-
field; 22, King's T., Longsight.
GIPSY LOVE (S.).—Feb. 15, T.R., Rochdale; 22,
O.H., Harrogate.
GIRL FROM NOWHERE.—Feb. 15, G.T., Pad-
ham; 22, T.R., Darwen.
GIRL IN THE TRAIN (MR. HERBERT BAL-
LAND'S CO.).—Feb. 15, T.R., West Bromwich;
22, T.R., Rotherham.
GRUMPY (CYRIL MAUDE'S CO.).—Feb. 15,
Theatre Royal, Brighton; 22, Grand T., South-
ampton.
GRUMPY (CHARLES WINDERMERE).—Feb. 15,
T.R., Merthyr; 22, Empire T., Swindon.
HERBERT SLATH.—Feb. 15, O.H., Wakefield.
HERITAGE OF HATE, A.—Feb. 15, T.R., Barns-
ley; 22, T.R., Birkenhead.
INDIAN SCOUT, THE.—Feb. 15, King's T., Gains-
borough.
IN TIME OF WAR (STANDARD CO.).—Feb. 15,
Empire T., Tonypandy; 22, Hagger's T.,
Llanely.
IN TIME OF WAR (UNION JACK CO.).—Feb.
15, Royalty T., Barrow; 22, T.R., Ashton-under-
Lyne.
JACK AND JILL (JOHN TILLER'S).—Feb. 15,
Glasgow; 22, Liverpool.
LADY SLAVEY, THE.—Feb. 15, Hippo, Stock-
ton.

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ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Actors' Association will be held on THURSDAY, March 2, at 12 o'clock noon, at HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE (by kind permission of Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree) for the following purposes, namely:—
To receive a Report of Expenditure and Receipts and Liabilities and Assets.
To elect twenty-five members of the Council and to transact any further business of the Association brought before the meeting by the Council, or by any member who shall have given to the Secretary seven days' written notice thereof.
Dated this 12th day of February, 1915.
By order of the Council,
ADAM SPRANGE, Secretary.

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MISS WINIFRED PORTER.

"LOUIE FREAR NUMBER TWO."

A recent visit made by an "Era" representative to Stedman's well-known Academy resulted in a chance encounter with Miss Winifred Porter, who, it will be recalled, secured quite a success by her clever portrayal of the part of the Cook in "Alice in Wonderland" at the Savoy Theatre.
Having regard to certain impressions which, following upon a recent visit to the Savoy Theatre, the writer had stored in his mind, Miss Porter was induced to speak of her experiences.
"I started my—shall I call it?—professional career at Stedman's Academy a little over a year ago, with the intention of taking up dancing. After being a few months at the Academy I felt—and so I believe did my friends—that my forte



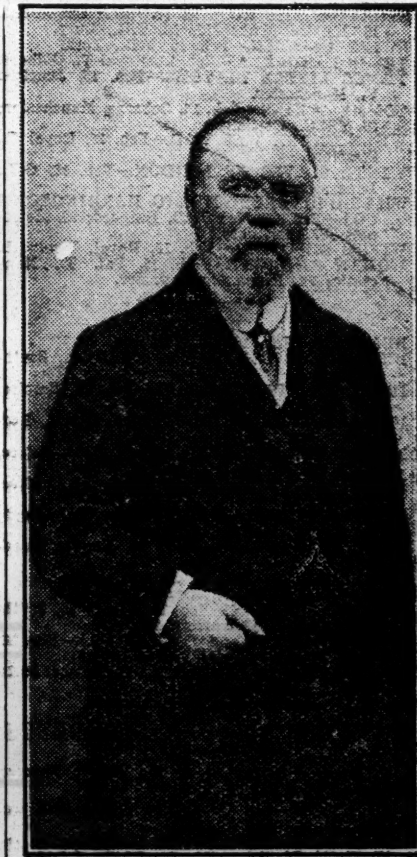
(Photo by Strand Photo Co.)

MISS WINIFRED PORTER.

was acting and singing. My voice is a mezzo-contralto. Well, I took several old woman's parts in various Academy productions; and the outcome was that I decided to seriously go in for acting—in characters of the Louie Frear type. In fact, I have been called 'Louie Frear Number Two.'
"Then Mr. Griffiths—to whose kindness and careful training I feel I owe so much—afforded me the very opportunity I was anxiously waiting for, by giving me the part of the Cook in his recent successful production of 'Alice in Wonderland' at the Savoy. I was greatly encouraged by the fine Press notices I received; and I look forward to other opportunities for taking up parts of this kind.
"I may, perhaps, add that I am contemplating producing a sketch of my own, in which there is a part of this nature; and I hope soon to be able to play this sketch in a West-end hall."

THE LATE F. W. RENAUT.

Not a little of the Royal Academy of Music's splendid progress during recent years has been directly attributable to the good work of Mr. Frederick William Renaut, whose death we recorded in our last issue. It was indeed fortunate that he was spared to see the school housed in a worthy building, an ambition which was probably uppermost in his mind for many a year previous to the removal in 1911. A man of singular charm of manner, always good company,



(Photo by Alex Corbett)

THE LATE MR. F. W. RENAUT.

Secretary of the Royal Academy of Music.
tactful and resourceful, he will be missed by the governing bodies, professors, and students alike.

The representative gathering at the funeral service at Marylebone Parish Church on Feb. 6 proved how widely the deceased was honoured and respected, among those present being Sir Hubert Parry, Sir William Biggs, Sir James Dewar, Sir Ernest Cooper, and Sir Alexander MacKenzie.

Musicians will regret to hear of the death of Mr. Thomas Whiston, the flautist at the Leicester Pavilion Theatre, where he has been for 14 years in the employ of Mr. Frank Macnaghten, and was held in much esteem.

BRITISH EMPIRE SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY.

Prior to the distribution of prizes and certificates to the members of the British Empire Shakespeare Society by the president, Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig-Holstein, at the Haymarket Theatre on Friday afternoon, a delightful little recital—Shakespeare in various moods—was given by well-known actors and vocalists. A rare treat was the appearance of Miss Genevieve Ward, who recited Volunthia's speech from "Coriolanus" with remarkable power and intensity, the beautiful and impressive delivery and eloquent facial expression holding the audience enthralled. The veteran actress was loudly recalled at the conclusion, and was obviously delighted at the warmth of her greeting. Fine work was also done by Miss Margaret Halstan, who recited with exquisite feeling and dignity the "Gone to be married" speech of Constance, from "King John"; Mr. Gerald Lawrence, who declaimed with spirit and force Henry V.'s speech before Harfleur, and Mr. Fisher White, who gave a very impressive and finished recital of the dagger speech from "Macbeth." Mr. Norman Forbes gave us the Bard in higher mood, being responsible for a very humorous rendering of the scene of Lances and his dog from "The Two Gentlemen of Verona." The canine played his part perfectly, and the excerpt greatly amused the audience. Mr. Lloyd Chancel's rendering of "Sigh no more, ladies," and "Who is Sylvia?" and Mme. Alice Esly's singing of "Where the bee sucks" and "Should he upbraid" were delightful contributions, and were heartily applauded.

At the conclusion of the presentation of the prizes and certificates by the Princess, Mr. H. B. Irving proposed a vote of thanks to her Highness, referring to the great interest she had always taken in the Society, and also to her kindly influence on behalf of the professional actor. Mr. Acton Bond, in seconding, gave some particulars of performances given by various branches of the Society in aid of war charities, and, after the vote had been heartily accorded, conveyed the Princess's acknowledgments. Lady Tree, in a very happy little speech, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Frederick Harrison for the loan of his beautiful theatre, referred to the time when she and Sir Herbert had acted therein, and said that they were delighted to have such a rival opposite to theirs. Mr. Fisher White, who seconded, said he could speak from personal experience of the kindness and consideration of Mr. Harrison, who, in replying, expressed his deep interest in the Society, and the hope that it would make use of his theatre on many future occasions.

"THE DREAMERS."

A Play, in Three Acts, by Lennox Robinson, Produced at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Feb. 8.

John Brady Mr. Arthur Sinclair
Robert Brady Mr. A. Patrick Wilson
Martin Brady Mr. U. Wright
Robert Emmet Mr. Fred O'Donovan
Henry Homely Mr. J. M. Kerrigan
Sarah Curran Miss Sara Allgood
Julia Miss Kathleen Drago
Jane Curran Miss Nora Desmond
Major Sirr Mr. Philip Guinly

Written around the "Ninety-eight" period, the play deals with the Robert Emmet revolution and its tragic end. The scene opens in the cobbler's shop of the Bradys. Emmet comes to tell Martin and Robert Brady of his plans for the rebellion. The final plans are arranged at the White Bull Inn for the taking of Dublin Castle at a given signal the following evening. Emmet's followers advise him to postpone the rising, but he declines, saying the Wicklow and Kildare men are already on their way to the city. Just then the man to whom Emmet had entrusted the task of notifying the Wicklow men enters, and announces that he got drunk at Rathfarnham, and went no further. This upsets matters, and gradually Emmet's followers desert him until only two are left. The third act shows the failure of the "rebellion," which only amounted to a riot and the capture of Robert Emmet at Harold's Cross, Dublin, whither he had fled.

The piece is a fine piece of dramatic work, but is rather inclined to exaggerate the bad qualities of a certain type of Emmet's followers. The scene in the inn during the evening of the rebellion, when the agents of Emmet are all supposed to be under the influence of drink, is very much overdone. The acting throughout was really fine. Miss Sara Allgood excelled herself in the portrayal of Sarah Curran, Emmet's sweetheart, and reached a high level of acting in the final scene, when Sarah is saying farewell to her lover. Mr. Fred O'Donovan provided a meritorious study of Emmet, his acting being powerful and restrained, and his elocution perfect. Mr. Arthur Sinclair made the most of a small part in John Brady; and Mr. A. Patrick Wilson gave a capital rendering of Robert Brady.

"ALADDIN" AT BRITON THEATRE.

Mr. Newman Maurice, who has written the book for "Aladdin," produced on Monday at the Briton Theatre calls it a "comic revue pantomime." It is certainly a comic pantomime, and a good one at that. The story is more or less true to tradition, and the children and grown-ups all entranced at the adventures of the intrepid youth Aladdin, and the wonderful happenings to the owner of the lamp, from the time of the hatching of the plot in the wizard's cavern to the grand ensemble in Aladdin's palace. There is an abundance of good, healthy comic business, and in addition plenty of bright singing and dancing, and some excellent scenes and lighting effects. The management have been very fortunate in securing the services of Miss Nan C. Hearne as principal boy, and her Aladdin is a delightfully roguish creation. Her rendering of "Here we are again," and "Some of these days," revealed the amount of originality she can put into a song. She was also heard to advantage in the duet with Miss Maude Olmar, "I was a good little girl," and her telephone song, "Kitty," brought down the house. As the Princess, Miss Olmar sang and danced very charmingly. She has a good voice, which she knows how to use to advantage in "I just want you." "Won't you come and be my butterfly?" and in the more vivacious "Joy-ride girl." Mr. Newman Maurice, as the Dame, amuses the whole time he is on, and he is well supported in the comic business by Mr. Freddie Wolgast as Abanazar, who, besides being an excellent comedian, is a fine actor. Kingberley and Melbourne are very funny as the comic policemen. Miss Gladys Carleton, as Nicey Piecy, sang quite delightfully "When Irish eyes are smiling" and "To have, to own, to love you," and Miss Amy Randolph received a deal of applause for her "Irish, and proud of it" song. Other parts were all well played.

The indefatigable author was responsible for the production, and Mr. Burton Manning composed and arranged the music.

There was a meeting under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, at the Mansion House, yesterday afternoon, for the consideration of distress among professional classes caused by the war. The Professional Classes War Relief Council has now been at work for some upon six months, and has covered much ground in the relief of distress among those with whom it deals.

FACING THE MUSIC.

BY JAMES M. GLOVER.

"Imitation is the sincerest, &c." The "Globe" has come into my anti-German musical comedy protest, and a long interview with Mr. Leslie Stuart in its Saturday issue is fortified by a leader, which latter for temperate and genuine analytical protest is admirable. Mr. Leslie Stuart, however right he may be—and I admit he is right—in his premises actually makes a covert attack on Mr. George Edwards and his Viennese musical comedy policy.

Now, Mr. George Edwards is a sick man, but if he were in a sufficiently robust state of health to enter the arena he might suggest that he did not go to Germany for his stock-in-trade until he had given many English composers a good look-in, and I think I am right in saying that even Mr. Leslie Stuart was given two chances in "Havana" and "Peggy" at the Gaiety of proving that he was greater than Offenbach. In fact Mr. Edwards' sole fault has been that he wrapped himself up in the certain individual composer's portfolio, giving the same class of entertainment which, so long as it had the Gaiety setting, carried its way; but when that was taken away—well, the structure fell to the ground, and Mr. Edwards went to Vienna and Berlin.

With the exception of Mr. Lionel Monckton and Mr. Sidney Jones, there is hardly one of the George Edwards' composers who could really sit down and turn out a four-part quartette or a properly constructed musical finale. Jingle jingled down for a piano and scored by an outsider at so much a page is all very well, but it is not Offenbach. Arthur Sullivan, or even, as I mentioned, Lionel Monckton or Sidney Jones, gave us specimens of good English work in the real light school. "The Quaker Girl" and "The Greek Slave" take a lot of beating.

But Mr. Edwards has other interests wrapped up in his productions, and these have prevailed. Again, it is not true that even now Mr. Leslie Stuart has a large commission from Mr. George Edwards to write a chef d'œuvre. If so, push it along.

A tribute to the memory of an old friend just dead, Mr. Charles Kariyle, a musician who did good work for me twenty-five years ago during my Covent Garden days of opera. A sort of second tenor, or small part interest in German opera (he was a Wurtemburger), he also did a lot of work in the provinces of English versions of German works. For some years past he earned a precarious living with teaching, added to a little journalism.

A writer in the "Referee" appealed to me last Sunday on the question of the Torquay Corporation resolution to this effect: "That it would be unwise to authorise the Entertainment Committee, as it proposed, to conclude arrangements with weekly and special artists for the Pavilion to the end of May. In time of war, with the uncertainty which veiled the future, it would be unwise to commit the undertaking and the town to a responsibility of engaging artists so far ahead, &c."

The writer, who signs himself "The Lamb," seems to forget that municipal bodies, being bound down by rates and loans, must be cautious. Last week a Corporation which suddenly concluded its band contracts last year when war broke out had judgment entered against it in the law courts. Torquay is one of the best-managed musical schemes in the country, but there are some members of its Council who do not see far enough to appreciate that an apparent deficit on the books may have a threefold return in prosperity and advertisement to the rates.

I had a pleasant afternoon on Sunday at a Valentine Day party given by Mme. Itala Conti's pupils at the Savoy Hotel. What with recitations, too dancing, songs at the piano, &c., these little mites, some of them very "mitoy," quite excelled themselves in their exhibition of terpsichorean and other arts, to the evident delight of an audience of which the present writer and Mr. Charles H. Hawley were appreciative members. "Peter Pan," "Where the Rainbow Ends," and "Drury Lane," where Mme. Conti has pupils, were well represented in the programme.

The musical arrangements for the forthcoming season at Douglas, Isle of Man, are now complete, a British band and conductor having secured the contract.

Doublets are being cast on the authenticity of the Barcarole in "The Tales of Hoffmann." Let me with authority I can vouch say that there can be no doubt about the fact that Offenbach composed everything that he puts his name to, but, like many an English light opera composer, all his stuff was scored, up to the day of his death, by a professional hack attached to the local theatres where his small operettas first had their vogue. The almost mechanical treatment of his simple harmonies gives this away, as the fine work of Mr. Karl Kertel did in West End theatres before that excellent German arranger shook the dust of these shams off his feet for America when war broke out.

Mr. Thomas Quinlan has an offer to run English opera in New York on a large scale.

Look out for a famine in brass instrument players. The Lord Mayor's Recruiting Band Committee, after trying—very trying—five amateur bands, have actually decided to engage professional musicians. Whether many of the old campaigners will care to do the marching "stunt" is a moot question, but it is a not unwelcome Lenten pastoral for the musician out of work.

The Americans are not a kind lot. When the new Gaiety musical play by Paul Rubens went to New York someone unwisely posted up a copy of "Your King and Country Need You" on the notice board of the Lamb's Club, and some of the members wrote underneath "WE DON'T."

Mr. Percy Gibson, the popular manager of the Borough Theatre, North Shields, took his farewell benefit on Thursday evening last, when a gigantic bill of fare attracted two crowded houses. During the evening Mr. Gibson was the recipient of a travelling bag and silver-mounted pipe, the gifts of the staff, whilst his numerous friends presented him with a well-filled purse of gold.

The Denbighshire Society in London gave a performance at the Haymarket on Thursday in aid of the National Relief Fund. The programme included two Welsh plays, "Pont Orewyn," by "T. H. Ellis," as Lord Howard de Walden elects to be known, dealt with the last scene in the life of Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, and was effectively played. A masque called "The Quest of the Grail," by Mr. Ernest Elys, which followed, provided a variation of the immortal story in which faith and chivalry are so closely associated.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1915.

OPTIMISM AND AMUSEMENT.

The "question of the theatres" in Paris has become a controversy. Two camps exist, the one favouring the opening of all playhouses, the other protesting that such a measure is out of spirit with the times. "It is unseemly," says the latter, "to frequent amusements when there is mourning in every street." The other replies: "Your prohibition enlarges the area of distress by adding artists to the ordinary victims of war." In the early stages of the war the danger of Paris from the hordes of Huns was too terrible for our brave Gallic Allies to do anything else but prepare for the stern work of defence; but now that something of the joy of living has come back to them there is a desire for playgoing. For the benefit of those inclined to obsess their fellows with sadness, one might quote the words of the ancient sage, who said: "Tis not in sport, nor in laughter, nor in diversion, that lieth all evil; nor all good in mourning, nor in sad garments." Though one naturally respects the dignity of sorrow, the Parisians cannot altogether live like captives uncomplainingly; a nation gains nothing by dejection. The French Government, which regulates the State-subsidised houses from the Bureau des Beaux-Arts, has sought refuge in compromise, and decreed that the theatres shall be open for matinees. Music, too, is awakening the soul of Paris. Last Sunday at the Salle Gaveau, the Colonne and Lamoureux orchestras joined forces, and played César Franck's "Paris," a patriotic theme composed soon after the war of 1870. In such renewed enterprise one gladly recognises the return of cheerfulness.

In London we are much farther from the scene of conflict, and the public, therefore, are more happily placed. At one time during the first fortnight of panic there was a question of closing down the theatres; but our theatrical managers "reined in" the situation and handled it with tact and judgment. They were compelled to reduce expenses, but they could trust to the inalienable comradeship of the players, who made matters easier for them by their whole-hearted co-operation and their uncomplaining acceptance of reduced salaries. Though they could not stave off distress, the actor-managers and the theatre-lessees of London—"men of cheerful yesterdays and confident to-morrows"—cope with it in every possible way. With the utmost faith in the complete good of laughter and diversion, and braced with soulful optimism, they have kept things going with a persistency that is as marvellous to the Londoner as it is astounding to the stranger within our gates. Read what one of the most prominent of American managers writes:—"It was an enormous surprise to me to find theatrical business so good in London. Although Great Britain is so deeply concerned in this war, yet there does not seem an apparent trace of the commercial depression so prevalent in the United States. An American glancing at your theatres would think that Great Britain was at the summit of a great trade boom, quite untroubled by the remotest thought of a great conflict. I have never known such a time of utter depression in America."

We are told that we Britons are an amazing nation, and we accept the definition with some thankfulness, for while a million men are responding to the "lift" of Freedom's clarion call to arms against the calculated irresponsibility of barbarism, those who remain at home are acquainted with the triple brass of endurance, and there are at least seventy places of entertainment, without the inclusion of cinemas, heartening up London's millions. The theatres are wisely running comedies and farces. The time is not for the play that probes, but the play that diverts. We enter the theatre to find the world of counterfeit wearing its happiest guise. The business or professional worker leaves the playhouse with his heart attuned to joy; he has acquired an instalment of cheerfulness for the unrisen morning; he absorbs the consoling faith that things are brighter than they seem;

and when he shoulders the daily burden with renewed cheerfulness, some happy thought, some felicitous expression, some witty passage recurs to him. Is he not all the better for remembering it? Does not the rush of joy open the floodgates of sympathy?

And if the optimism of the theatre at the moment is, indeed, invincible, that of the music halls is no less so. In the case of the more favoured houses the campaign against boredom—the child of monotony—is being carried on with determined enterprise and in some remarkable instances at considerable profit. In others, though the returns do not show the percentage usual under normal conditions the results are extremely encouraging. Strange to say, the Alhambra has done better than usual, and the reports of three of the Stoll group—the Coliseum, and the Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empires—bear uniform testimony as to the slight influence of war on the receipts. The Coliseum ordinary dividend is again 25 per cent., and both the Hackney and Shepherd's Bush and Leicester concerns actually exhibit a larger net profit.

And how splendidly the rank-and-file of both professions have responded to every appeal of the numerous funds called into existence by the country's needs, each one of them doing their bit to brighten the annals of the greatest crisis in our history. "The long-necked geese of the world," as TENNYSON says, "are ever hissing-dispraise"; but there can be nothing but whole-hearted praise for the two great professions that people the world of amusement, not only with kind hearts, but with souls that bear patiently the distress and suffering inevitable in such a stupendous calamity as war.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT" CENTURY.

One of the theatrical records of this amazing year will be the run of "The Flag Lieutenant," revived by Mr. Frederick Harrison at the Haymarket, and if the business evident on the occasion of its hundredth performance on Tuesday night confirms there is every prospect of another century being reached. Quite recently Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore, the original Admiral, Sir Berkeley Wynne, obeyed his country's call, and joined the fighting forces. An excellent substitute has been found in Mr. C. V. France, who does capable work in the part, being quite the kindly, imperative old salt that one expects an admiral to be. The lovable Dick Lascelles is invested with all the breezy irresponsibility that gives so many worthy people in the play so much uneasiness, especially the impulsive, generous widow, perfectly played, and with quite the Mrs. Kendal touch by Miss Ellis Jeffreys. Miss Stella Mervyn Campbell looks the sweet girl that has such faith in Dick, playing, too, with a sincerity that is entirely convincing. The middies, "Dormones" and Hood, are as natural and lifelike as they can be in the keeping of Messrs. Jack Hobbs and C. Walter Martin. Mr. Allan Aynesworth, who always takes military officers so well, is quite at home in the character of Theisger; a finished cameo of character is the General Gough-Bogle of Mr. O. B. Clarence; and for little bits of most acceptable cockney comedy one may warmly thank Messrs. Gordon Barker, Henry Wolston, and Ernest Graham. The other characters are most effectively presented. The play brims over with vitality, and forms one of the pleasantest entertainments in London.

"FANNY'S FIRST PLAY."

Revived at the Kingsway on Saturday, Feb. 13. Servant Mr. T. West Cecil Savoyard Mr. A. G. Poulton Count O'Dowda Mr. C. H. Croker-King Fanny O'Dowda Miss Manora Thew Mr. Trotter Mr. Miles Malleson Mr. Vaughan Mr. E. H. Brooke Mr. Gunn Mr. A. J. Wade Mr. Flawner Bannell Mr. G. Hamilton Gay Mr. Robin Gilbey Mr. F. J. Lewis Mrs. Gilbey Miss Florence Haydon Juggins Mr. Henry Ainley Dora Delaney Miss Ivy St. Helier Mrs. Knox Miss Helen Hays Mr. Joseph Knox Mr. F. B. J. Sharp Margaret Knox Miss Lena Ashwell Lieutenant Duvallet Mr. Herbert Dansey Bobby Mr. Norman Page On Saturday night "Fanny's First Play," by Mr. G. B. Shaw (the author is still unnamed on the programme) was revived at the Kingsway Theatre with a cast that, with one exception, did not contain the names of any of the original performers. Enjoyable as we find this delightful mixture of sense and nonsense, we do not think that the revival will see the success that attended the original production. It may be that "the time is out of joint" for topsy-turvydom, and that having come to grips with realities we can only give slackened interest and tolerant amusement to Shavian platitudes. The chief enjoyment is to be found in the actual play; the induction, that formerly appeared provocative and stimulating, now strikes us as curiously wearisome and stale. The revival was distinguished by the welcome reappearance on the stage of Miss Lena Ashwell. The actress's impersonation of Margaret Knox, a part created by Miss Lillah McCarthy, was followed with deep interest. Miss Ashwell played Margaret with intense earnestness and obvious sincerity, and was admirable, both in Margaret's deeper and lighter moments, but her temperament, her delicate sensitiveness, her soft, passionate warmth, do not fit her naturally for the character. Mr. Henry Ainley was magnificent as Juggins, superb in his hauteur and his calm repose of manner. Another complete success was the Dora Delaney of Miss Ivy St. Helier, a remarkably skilful piece of work. There is less exuberant superficiality about Miss St. Helier's performance than there was in Miss Dorothy Minto's conception of the part. She suggests more depth, though at the same time there is no lack of the excess of animal spirits that was part of Miss Delaney's character. Miss Manora Thew is delicately vivacious as Fanny; and Miss Florence Haydon is a delicious Mrs. Gilbey, one of the few real characters in the play. Miss Helen Hays now plays Miss Cleary Hamilton's original part of Mrs. Knox, and plays it brilliantly, though without the tremendous conviction of her predecessor. Mr. F. B. J. Sharp as Mr. Knox; and the clever effect of detachment that Mr. C. H. Croker-King goes into the part of Count O'Dowda. Mr. Herbert Dansey is inclined to outshine as Duvallet, and we should prefer Mr. A. G. Poulton to be a little less abrupt in his methods as Cecil Savoyard.

A WELCOME RE-APPEARANCE.

MISS EVIE GREENE AGAIN IN MUSICAL COMEDY.

In a little chat with an "Era" representative yesterday during the rehearsals of "Florodora" at the Lyric Theatre, Miss Evie Greene expressed her delight in re-appearing in her original part of Dolores.

"I have just returned from a successful tour of some of the provincial halls," said the popular actress, "and am quite pleased to be in Town again. I have had so much pleasure in singing on many occasions recently for the wounded soldiers and sailors. I always find them a most appreciative audience; and what with these concerts, rehearsals for 'Florodora,' and fifteen performances weekly at the Palladium, I do not, as you will understand, get over much time to myself these days."

"I would like to tell you of a charming, if somewhat pathetic, recent experience of mine. I have received from the seat of war a letter headed 'Somewhere in France'; and what do you think accompanied it? You would hardly be likely to guess. It was a simply-fashioned Rosary. But oh! how priceless. See! Here it is, in the very little cardboard box sent me from the battlefield."

"The Rosary was forwarded to me by an unknown friend—one James O'Connell, No. 68, 736, 82nd Company Motor M. Transport, Indian Cav. Div., Sep. Col., British Expeditionary Force, France; and, knowing 'The Era' circulates everywhere, it is not inconceivable that my unknown friend may learn through its columns that I thank him again most sincerely for the charming thought which prompted him to send me such a treasured gift."

"I received the Rosary through the courtesy of an obliging editor of a London Journal, with the simple explanation that Mr. O'Connell found the relic on the body of one of the Benedictine Fathers killed by the Germans, and bringing my acceptance of it. It is nearly needless to say that in acknowledging the gift I informed Mr. O'Connell that I should always treasure the Rosary as a

"SEARCHLIGHTS."

Play, in Three Acts, by Horace Annesley Vachell. Produced at the Savoy Theatre, Thursday, Feb. 11.

Robert Blaine Mr. H. B. Irving
Sir Adalbert Schmaltz Mr. Holman Clark
Harry Blaine Mr. Reginald Owen
Dr. Firmly Mr. James Linday
Money-penny Mr. Tom Reynolds
Fewson Mr. Charles Maunsell
Tremlett Mr. E. H. Ruston
Hon. Mrs. Blaine Miss Fay Davis
Lady Schmaltz Miss Kate Bishop
Phoebe Schmaltz Miss Margery Maude
Nurse Miss Lynn Fontaine
Many of the characteristics that distinguish his delightful novels are to be found also in Mr. Vachell's plays. In "Jell's," a comedy with a successful run at Wyndham's, and in "Searchlights" we get some exceptionally well-drawn men's characters of the strong, resolute type, whilst in "Her Son," as well as in the author's latest play, we are shown beautiful pictures of maternal love. With these characters and illustrations all readers of Mr. Vachell's novels are familiar. Again, both as novelist and author Mr. Vachell has a gift for keeping the interest sustained in spite of slightness of action and an occasional excess of sentimentality, particularly noticeable in love scenes on the stage, which, though beautifully written, display an intimacy of affection that is apt to jar a little.

In a fine old castle in Scotland in September, 1913, we first make the acquaintance of a couple of young people, Harry Blaine, a rather conceited young Guardsman, and dear little Phoebe Schmaltz, very much in love with Harry and not half appreciated by him. The pair discuss their parents, particularly what Harry calls their "rammy brace of fathers"—Robert Blaine, a man with exceptional brains, strong, reserved, harsh to his wife, utterly unsympathetic to his son, and Sir Adalbert Schmaltz, his host, a delightfully urbane naturalised Englishman, or rather, as he himself puts it, "more English than the English—he is Scotch." Mrs. Blaine's exis-

of her lover, of whom her son is the living image, she breaks down and signs the confession. Then only does Blaine relent towards the unhappy woman. He sees the selfishness of her action, promises Harry, now fairly in love with Phoebe, immunity from money troubles (the war has ruined Sir Adalbert), and with a caring hand on the head of his wife, prophesies a happier future for them all.

Mr. H. B. Irving gives an exceedingly powerful performance as Robert Blaine. He emphasises, with fine restraint, the strength of the character, and in a delightfully written little scene with Phoebe, he makes us realise the loneliness of a man by nature sensitive and affectionate, surrounded by the hostility of his family. Mr. Irving's quiet effects are always his best; he is infinitely finer in portraying underlying emotion than in depicting surface perturbation. Mr. Holman Clark is wholly horrible as Schmaltz, the loyal naturalised Englishman, and Mr. Vachell is to be congratulated on the pluck he has shown in putting this representative type on the stage at the present time. Miss Margery Maude is fresh and sweet as a spring day in a small part. Miss Fay Davis makes a very welcome return to the stage in the part of Mrs. Blaine, and is exceedingly sympathetic. Miss Kate Bishop is deliciously untrammelled (except on one occasion) as Lady Schmaltz, and Mr. Tom Reynolds gives quite a clever little study of an affable solicitor.

Curiously enough, it is not quite easy to decide whether the author or the actor is to blame for the fact that Harry Blaine does not impress us very favourably. We are inclined to think that it is more the fault of Mr. Reginald Owen that Harry appears a little too self-conscious, altogether too satisfied with himself even after he has been "crooked," and much too graciously condescending to the adorable Phoebe.

The play is extremely well produced by Mr. Holman Clark. In the three rooms shown there is a most excellent effect of unostentatious wealth, dignity, and richness in colour.

In response to an enthusiastic reception and many calls, Mr. Irving made a graceful little speech of thanks on the opening night.

"Searchlights" is preceded by "The Plumbers," by Harry Gratton. The little piece is as popular as ever, and is capably played by Miss May Holland as Mrs. Drake, Miss Meta Pelham as the Cook, Mr. Tom Reynolds as Mr. Saunders, and Mr. Leslie Oswald as 'Erb.

STANLEY HOUGHTON MEMORIAL.

Since the unfortunate death of Mr. Stanley Houghton, about a year ago, a movement had been on foot in Manchester to establish a memorial to his name in connection with the Manchester Grammar School, where the deceased dramatist passed three years of his education; and on Wednesday last this scheme was brought to completion by a ceremony at the Manchester Central Library, when Miss Horniman, of the Gaiety Theatre, unveiled a bronze tablet bearing the following inscription:—

William Stanley Houghton,
of Manchester,
Dramatist,
1881-1913.

"The younger generation is bound to win. That's how the world goes on." The memorial includes a scholarship to be awarded annually at the Grammar School for the encouragement of the serious study of the drama. Thus the youthful dramatist has left behind him a direct influence upon the studious younger generation of the city which shares the honour of his achievements.

Mr. J. L. Paton, High Master of the Grammar School, presided at the ceremony. He said that Stanley Houghton's three years' association with the school had been both happy and successful. It was recognised now that he was one of a small body of pioneers whose work was to infuse new life into the English drama by putting into it new thought and serious work. With such material as he had to hand, the life of the middle-class folk of Lancashire and the mill life of the people, he had brought himself into the front rank of contemporary writers for the stage.

Miss Horniman, who expressed the general feeling when she said that it seemed as though she were the right person to uncover the memorial, remarked that she had read newspaper accounts of how she had inspired Mr. Houghton and had taken his work because he was a journalist. As a matter of fact, for example, "The Dear Departed" came to her in a fearsome pile of manuscripts, and she picked it out without troubling to look at the name. "I do not care who writes a play," Miss Horniman added. "I have accepted, I am proud to say, plays by absolutely unknown people, and I think I have refused two or three from the biggest dramatists living in England. I picked out 'The Dear Departed' because it amused and interested me." Her last impression of the dramatist was that he wanted to do more and do better. She uncovered the tablet regretfully, yet with a feeling that it was well the thing should be done.

The Lord Mayor accepted the memorial on behalf of the city, and expressed his deep regret that a life so full of promise should have been cut off so early.

Mr. Arthur Boucherier and his wife, Miss Violet Vauvray, who were playing the dead dramatist's one-act piece, "Pearls," at the Hippodrome, were also present. Mr. Boucherier said that the qualities he associated with Stanley Houghton were modesty, charm, and lofty ambition. When Miss Horniman first presented Houghton to the dramatic world as a potential success, London was largely dependent on foreign sources for its theatrical entertainment. It was a discovery to be thankful for. Had he lived, Mr. Boucherier ventured to assert, Stanley Houghton would have proved a worthy successor to Sir James Barrie, not only in writing for the legitimate stage, but in writing for the variety theatre, and as a novelist. Houghton had a deep-rooted affection for Manchester, and wherever he was, whether abroad or in London, his mind was always turning back to the city, just as the heart of Masterlinck had always been in his Belgian fields in the midst of all the great things he had done.

Captain the Hon. Henry Lyndhurst Bruce, the husband of Miss Camille Clifford, whose death took place whilst on active service in Flanders on Dec. 14, left estate of the gross value of £37,564 2s. 7d., with net personality £3,294 8s. 11d. By his will dated Jan. 8, 1908, he gives all his property to his wife. Under the provision of a family settlement he appointed an annuity of £500 or £1,000, as the case might be, to his wife, and charges such estates with portions for his younger children.

The close of the Gaiety, Dublin, pantomime was marked by great enthusiasm. The principal boy, Miss Beatrice Allen, and Principal Girl, Miss Vera Rochdale, received innumerable bouquets and presents of all kinds from their admirers. Mr. F. W. Warden, the producer, announced that the pantomime had been a record one for the Gaiety. On behalf of the company he presented the musical conductor with a solid silver salver, the acting manager with a purse of sovereigns, and the stage manager with a gold Albert watch-chain. Mr. Warden announced that his services had been retained for next year's production, which will be "Dick Whittington."



MISS EVIE GREENE.

(Photo by Bassano, Ltd.)

very sacred possession. There I does not the account of this episode almost give one a 'catch in the throat'. Ah! I knew you would agree with me.

"With regard to my part in 'Florodora' may I ask you to remark in 'The Era' that I have been very grateful to receive numerous letters from my friends of the playgoing public expressing their—may I say—satisfaction upon hearing of my reappearance in my old part of Dolores? As I think you know, Mr. Bannister Howard—who is producing the play, as you'll be aware, at the Lyric Theatre on Saturday next—is presenting it in its original form, having resisted all suggestions to modernise the piece—although, of course, an up-to-date heaven will be found running through it."

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, WINDSOR.

On Monday, Feb. 15, the Pantomime,

"DICK WHITTINGTON."

On Monday night a large audience showed marked appreciation of an excellent performance of "Dick Whittington," presented by Messrs. Kirby's company. Miss Hazel Glade makes a vivacious hero; her vocal contributions, all admirably rendered, are heartily encored. Miss Lily Arthur is a winsome Alice, and scores both vocally and histrionically. Miss Sadie Sadler portrays Tommy capably; and a charming impersonation of Polly comes from Miss Dolly Daimler. Miss Georgina Axten as the Fairy has a very popular number in "Wonderful rose of love"; the Princess of Morocco is admirably played by Miss Daisy Cement; Miss Daisy Tree gains favour as Rosie; whilst the dancing of Miss Annette Cambrai is an outstanding feature. Mr. Rannier is Sailor Bill, and whenever he is on the stage there is hearty laughter. Mr. Alec Daimler is also a very funny Dick Jack, and also delights with some clever dances. Mr. Fred Spencer plays well as Betsie; and Mr. Jackson Browne, a capital Alderman Fitzwarren, makes a great success with "Sister Susie," being well taken up by Mr. Stephens as Captain Barnacle; Mr. Harold Perry as the Emperor of Morocco; Mr. David Keir as Sandy Boy; Mr. Fred Rogers as Mowser, the cat, also contribute greatly to the success of the pantomime.

tence is centred in her son. For him she covets all that her husband can give—wealth, influence, and honours. It is a bitter blow to her when Robert Blaine declines a peerage, refusing to be so on an unworthy son an honour earned by the ability of the father. Early in the play we suspect that Blaine is not his son's father and that he is half aware of the fact, but chooses, as he writes in Phoebe's autograph book, to believe that "God's most merciful gift to a man may be Silence."

Ten months later, end of July, 1914, in Blaine's country house, a crisis is reached. Harry, the selfish young cub, is prepared to propose to sweet little Phoebe, partly because she would make "a ripping little wife," chiefly on account of her fortune; but he has sufficient decency to refrain until his debts, "three thousand, more or less," are settled. His mother undertakes to "sweeten" her husband to square the moneylenders, but Robert Blaine is proof against any amount of "sweetening" from the woman he believes has deceived him and he knows regards him with loathing. He refuses to pay Harry's debts, and stung to insensate fury, desirous only to hurt and humiliate, Mrs. Blaine taunts her husband with the fact that while he was busy making money during the first years of their married life, she, the neglected wife, found solace elsewhere. Blaine, confronted at last with the truth that he has endeavoured to hide for over twenty years, tries to use it to his own advantage, but, mindful of the interests of her son, Mrs. Blaine tears up the written confession he wishes her to sign and dedicates him. The news of Britain's declaration of war on Germany arrives, and at once the "incalculable effect it has had on all of us," the searchlight into character, makes itself felt. Harry's regiment is to be among the first to go. The news breaks the mother's heart and softens Blaine. We are not shown the effect it has on Harry, but four months later, when he has returned from the front, unfit for further active service, we find that the young cub, the "mammy's darling," has been licked into the shape of a man. To test his wife, whom he believes to be a creature wholly vain and selfish, Blaine promises to pay her son's debts if she will set him free by public confession. At first she tries to brave it out, asserts that her confession is untrue and has been made merely to humiliate him; but confronted with an old photo-

VARIETY GOSSIP

On behalf of the directors of Stoll's Hippodrome at Bristol, negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of the Bodminster Hippodrome on reasonable terms. It is expected that completion will take place shortly.

Mr. Lance Browne, lately manager of the Empire, Glasgow, and Mr. Evan Good, formerly of the Pavilion, Glasgow, have joined the Sportsmen's Battalion. Mr. John McMillan, manager at Olympia, Glasgow, is about to join Kitchener's Army.

Mr. Bransby Williams's son William, who is a Dulwich College boy, is a pupil at the London and Provincial Aviation School at Hendon, and is ready to receive his pilot's certificate, as he has made many flights unattended. He hopes to get into the Royal Naval Flying Corps. Should he succeed he will be the youngest airman in the service, being only seventeen.

Mr. Arthur Bouchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh begin a return visit to the Coliseum on Monday with a new sketch, "Divorce While You Wait," founded by George Paston and Frances Couthe on an unpublished story by Mr. Arthur Bouchier himself. The sketch is having a trial trip at Manchester this week.

Mr. Billy Merson appealed on Thursday last against a judgment by Mr. Justice Ridley for the plaintiff for £100 in an action for alleged breach of contract brought by the Gimsby Palace Theatre and Buffet, Ltd. Counsel strongly criticised the summing up of Mr. Justice Ridley, and the Court of Appeal ordered that the case should be retried.

"The brighter section of the public seem to be filled with energy by the war, and it will not allow them to sit at home and mope," said Mr. Oswald Stoll at the meeting of the Coliseum Syndicate, Ltd., last week. "The past twelve months of the Coliseum," he added, "was one of that theatre's best three years. One of the most remarkable effects of the war on audiences which has struck me is the foregone conclusion of everyone that we are bound to win."

A matinee is to be given at the Palladium on Friday, Feb. 26, by members of the Special Constabulary, and members of the ordinary Police Force. Among the "specials" are Sir Herbert Tree, Mr. Arthur Bouchier, Mr. Arthur Playfair, Mr. Henry Ainley, and many others. The special purpose of the matinee is to aid the Metropolitan Police Orphanage.

Mr. Alfred Lester concludes on Saturday next a nine weeks' most successful engagement at the London Coliseum. This we think must be somewhat of a record stay for a comedian at this house. During his season he has presented his new playlet, "Longshoreman Bill," for five weeks, "A Restaurant Episode" for two, and "The Village Fire Brigade" for two weeks. Mr. Lester, at the end of his Coliseum engagement, will go on tour for a fortnight, returning to town early in March.

Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton will make their first appearance in a London variety theatre on Monday next in Mr. Edward Knoblauch's "Kismet" sketch, which was produced last week at Newcastle-on-Tyne under the name of "Haji." The Palace Theatre, which will be the scene of this very interesting production, has often been the bridge over which our principal actor-managers have crossed from the legitimate to the variety stage.

It is very satisfactory to learn that the financial position of the Alhambra Company has greatly improved in recent times, and for the first time since 1910 the shareholders are to receive a dividend—the distribution being 5 per cent. A year ago a large debit balance was converted into a small credit. Last year's receipts totalled £103,500, and the directors again place £2,000 to renewals reserve, and write £4,000 off the alterations and suspense account, which now stands at £9,000. The debenture debt has been reduced by the redemption of £1,000 5 per cent. bonds.

The circus world will learn with regret of the death on Monday of Bimbo, a famous clown, whose real name was Thomas Drake. Bimbo, who was particularly known for his act on the high stilts, served many years in the ring under the banners variously of Lord George and Lord John Sanger, Hengler, and Ginneth. He was also well known on the Continent, where he appeared with the Cirque Madrano, the Cirque D'Été, and the Cirque d'Hiver.

He leaves a widow and two daughters, one of whom is professionally known on the music hall stage as Lillian Drake, while the other is a sister at the City of Westminster Hospital. His son, Mr. Furno Drake, is manager for Lord John Sanger and Sons, Ltd. The funeral on Saturday will start from the deceased's residence, 11, Ostade-road, Brixton-hill, at 11.

Private Paul Murray reports that in response to his appeal to form the Pale Company from the vaudeville and theatre professions about twenty have sent in their names. A similar number each week for one month would make a decent company. He has received replies from all sorts and conditions of artists, and is quite encouraged to go on. It is only by continually pegging away that success will be attained. Surely so worthy a project cannot fail. Private Murray should be written to: Headquarters, 19th County of London Battalion (St. Pancras), High-street, Camden Town, N.W.

Mr. Leonard Durell has been much gratified by the receipt of a letter from Mr. Murdoch, the chairman of the Bristol City Football Club.

"My directors, at last night's meeting, wished me to extend to you their admiration of the whole-hearted way in which you joined with others in helping the funds of the Red Cross in our procession and comic football match on the city ground. They greatly appreciate the feelings that prompted you to allow your splendid drama, 'Kultur', to be utilised for so worthy an object. Your zeal and interest, and the esprit de corps of your company, will not readily be forgotten by the Bristol City Football Club."

Hamlet did not get beyond the infinitive mood of the verb "to be" in the famous soliloquy; but the Follies have conjugated the present tense of the same verb in their novel entertainment, "The Romance of the Verb To Be," presented for the first time on Monday. The fun at present has been fully developed, and some of it is a little too subtle for such a large area as the Coliseum.

Mr. Fred Eplett, well-known composer and arranger, passed away last Thursday in Nottingham, at the age of fifty-six, after a brief illness. The deceased musician, who started his career as a drummer, was one of the busiest of men, and turned out an immense number of comic songs. His latest important composition was the revue, "Irish, and Proud of It," which he conducted up to the time of his last illness. The funeral took place on Saturday at Nottingham.

A New York professional newspaper recently printed as news, which we copied into our columns, an unwarranted report of Miss Helen Charles' engagement to an American variety artiste. Accuracy is not one of the virtues of journalism on the other side, and as an answer to the various letters received by the popular artiste we once more most emphatically state that there is not a shadow of foundation for the report.

Much regret is felt at the departure of the genial Mr. Mowbray Hrie from the stage management of the Manchester Hippodrome, where he has been held in high esteem for many years by all who had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance.

Last week, at the Finsbury Park Empire, Mr. J. Bruske, the musical director, sang during the interval, from his usual place in the orchestra, a ballad, which was received with much applause.

On the occasion of his marriage, which took place last week, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook was entertained to dinner by a numerous company of his Edinburgh friends, and on Monday (8th), at a luncheon given in his honour, he was presented with a purse of sovereigns.

Among those present were Mr. Geo. T. Minshall, managing director of Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; Mr. C. W. Shepherd, manager of the Edinburgh tramways; Mr. Nat. Dresner, director, King's Theatre; and Mr. Peter L. Howat, manager of the King's Theatre. Mr. Cook has always been highly popular in Edinburgh, and his return to the Empire after a short period in London was welcomed by all the patrons of that house.

The Four Boises, who are this week presenting at the Empire their original and entertaining aerial act, secured an immediate success. The troupe have just returned to England after a very satisfactory tour in Australia. The Four Boises were booked at the Empire by Mr. Percy Reiss, of Will Collins' Agency.

"We are trying vaudeville at the Alexandra Theatre, Hull, as a change," said the popular lessee, Mr. Morton, to a local pressman last week, "but we are not closing the door to drama. It may be that varieties will run for weeks, and then we shall stage a drama, and then resume variety. There is at the Alexandra Theatre excellent accommodation for it. The stage is one of the largest in the provinces; there is an immense gallery capable of seating over 1,000 people; and we also have a bigger pit than any other music hall in the city. If we find the change is appreciated we shall naturally develop vaudeville, but the impression that we have closed the door on drama is not correct." Mr. Morton evidently values the privileges of free trade in amusement.

The winter season at Hengler's Circus, Glasgow, closed on Saturday amid scenes of great enthusiasm. In spite of the war, the drawings for the three months have been almost up to the two previous years, which were records. Presentations were made to Mr. Harry Milne, the general manager, and also to Mr. Leicester Cooke, equestrian director, and Mr. Chas. Castello, who has a leading part in the water spectacle. Mr. Hengler was called upon to say a few words to his Glasgow friends, and at the finish the entire audience and the company joined in singing "Auld lang syne."

The patrons of the Leeds Empire will from a fortnight hence miss the genial presence of Mr. E. J. MacDermott, the extremely popular manager. Mr. MacDermott is resigning to take up the duties of general manager to Mr. Fred Kitchen, who is now appearing in "Cinderella" at the Leeds Royal. The loss to the local music hall circles will be an immense gain to Fred Kitchen, who is to be congratulated on securing a lieutenant who knows the Alpha and Omega of his business.

Mr. MacDermott took over the management of the Empire in July, 1913, and was quick to gain the appreciation of those with whom he came in contact, both by his winning personality and also his keenness to do his very best for his audiences. He has also been an indefatigable worker in the cause of charity during his stay in Leeds. Mr. MacDermott opens with Fred Kitchen at Cardiff on March 2.

There was a stirring military and civic display before immense crowds in Bradford last Wednesday, when the traffic in the centre of the city was stopped for a ceremony in the Town Hall-square, namely the presentation to Bradford Territorials of a souvenir to each man by the Lord Mayor. His Lordship expressed his appreciation of the kindness of Mr. Frank Allen and the directors of Moss' Empires, Ltd., who lent the Empire Theatre, the artistes who appeared, and Mr. Percy Craig, who organised the concert.

Patrons of half a century ago will be grieved to learn of the death in New York, at the age of 84, of Mrs. Mary A. Adams, widow of the noted clown, Charles H. Adams. Born in England, she was a daughter of Thomas E. Cooke, who in his day was well known as a circus manager throughout England. She was an acting member of her father's circus company until she left for America with her husband in 1868.

Mr. Bernard Armstrong, who is now in partnership with Mr. J. Cummings, theatrical and variety agent, Glasgow, is at present on tour through Ireland on the search for talent, and at the same time keeping a sharp look-out for suitable openings for variety and picture business in that part of the kingdom.

An action was raised in Glasgow Sheriff-Court at the instance of Mr. Graham Moffat against Mr. Walter W. Thompson, Victoria Theatre, Whiteinch, Glasgow. The case referred to bills issued by defender for the performance of a sketch entitled "The Wee Tin Box," and pursuer objected to his name appearing on these placards in prominent type. He claimed damages for the unwarranted use of his name. The action has now been settled amicably by joint minute, defender agreeing to pay pursuer's expenses.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. H. G. P. Wells, which took place at Salisbury on Feb. 1. The deceased gentleman for the past fifteen years had been general manager of the Albany Ward Circuit, and was a well-known character in the variety and picture business, known to the profession as "Papa" Wells. His loss is deeply felt by all connected with the firm, where he had gained the respect and esteem of all.

The funeral took place at the Salisbury Cemetery on Friday, Feb. 5, Mr. and Mrs. Albany Ward and a large number of the staff attending to pay the last tribute to a faithful friend, many of the managers having come long distances to attend. A very large number of wreaths and floral offerings were sent, including the following:—Mr. and Mrs. Albany Ward, Salisbury; the managers and staff of:—Palace Theatre, Salisbury; Warehouse and Wool Palaces; Palladium, Exeter; Palace, Blandford; Chippenham, Radstock; Warminster, Codford, and Treharris. Mr. and Mrs. Albany Ward have asked us to express their thanks for the very kind messages of sympathy which they have not yet been able to acknowledge personally.

Ernest Dottridge's musical comedy revue, which has had a continuous tour since last July, and which has been such a very big success, will play its first London date at the Empire, New Cross, next Monday.

Mr. Rufe Naylor will despatch the following acts to South Africa by the Walmer Castle next Saturday:—Teddy Eiben, Garadine, Three Comedians, and Frisco Trio.

Mr. W. H. Ball, representing Rufe Naylor's Agency in Wales and the Midlands, is doing some extensive booking for acts and sketch and revue combinations.

Matthew Boulton's new comedy sketch, "His Rest Day," which has been played continuously since its production on Dec. 14 last, is now booked up for some months ahead on the Stoll Tour, Moss' Empires, &c. The sketch is creating roars of laughter at Chiswick this week.

Miss Gerlie Gitana did not appear at the Manchester Hippodrome on Monday evening (first house), being indisposed. Her place was filled by Miss Anna Dorothy, the American comedienne, from the Ardwick Empire.

At the recent special matinee for soldiers' and sailors' children at Drury Lane last week both Queen Mary and Queen Alexandra joined in the chorus of "Sister Susie." Hermann Darewski is naturally very proud of the fact.

Miss Millie Hylton was in the chair at Sunday night's meeting of the members of the O.P. Club at the Hotel Cecil, and introduced Mr. Augustus Yorke to an interested audience. She assured them that "Potash" would be on his best behaviour that evening.

Miss Maudie Francis, fresh from her success at the Brixton Theatre's principal girl, opened at The Empress, Brixton, on Monday, and proved very popular. Her second number, "Sammy" (in which she is assisted by a clever gentleman partner), was her best, and won loud applause. She is extremely popular with Brixtonians.

Charles Avolo, a famous gymnast in his day, and the father of the Avolos, died last week at the age of 67, and was laid to his rest on Friday (12th) at Streatham Park Cemetery. His real name was Wincott.

Miss Victoria Monks wishes to correct one sentence in her evidence as reported in the "Star." Instead of Mr. Tom Claxton having been her agent since 1888, the year of her birth, that gentleman has only acted in that capacity for her since 1904.

Miss May Dalton, "The Revue Girl," late of "A Year in An Hour" revue, appeared four weeks ago at the Palace Theatre, Maidstone, opening with a special song, "The Lady policeman," which was an immediate success. She is this week at the Hippodrome, Eastbourne, and will be seen in London shortly. She is being booked by Mr. Willie Benn, of Benn's Agency.

The following 24 Terriers are on the new committee of the Variety Artistes' Federation:—W. H. Atlas, Burnett, Chris Baker, Andie Caine, T. C. Callaghan, Syd Crossley, Sid Doody, Wm. Downes, Harry Falls, Arthur Gallimore, W. E. Gillin, Bruce Green, Martin Henderson, Charles Kaerac, Ted Karno, Frank Melvin, Ben Obo, Jim Obo, W. B. Raby, Albert Voyce, Howard Ward, Horace Wheatley, Ben Whiteley, and Bert Williams.

We regret to hear of the death of Harry Rich, of the popular duo of cross-talkers and comedians, Rich and Rich, who passed away after a brief illness as the result of a chill at his residence, 34, Lorrimer-road, Walworth, on Sunday. His real name was Henry Tresadern. The funeral is fixed for Thursday, the cortege leaving the residence of the deceased at 10.30, arriving at the Streatham Park Cemetery, Greyhound-lane, Streatham, at 11.30. The funeral arrangements are in the hands of Mr. W. R. Dunkley, Westminster Bridge-road.

Mr. Edward Kerford, better known as Eddy Wells, club juggler and hoop manipulator, wishes to thank proprietors, managers, and agents for cancelling all contracts to enable him to go on active service. Friends who wish to write may address him, "Edward Kerford, Ord. Seaman, No. 10 Mess, No. 1 Room, B. Block, Royal Naval Barracks, Devonport." Eddy says he would like to hear of more young bloods in the profession joining the fighting forces of the Empire.

Following upon a highly successful seven weeks' run at the London Pavilion with their attractive song and dance scene, Mr. Harry Pilcer and Miss Teddie Gerard have this week introduced at the popular Piccadilly house a new dance of a somewhat startling character, with music by Max Darewski, entitled "Temptation." This terpsichorean tornado should "draw the town." Mr. Percy Reiss, of Will Collins' Agency, is responsible for the booking.

Miss Romanitz, described on the Coliseum bill as the "Roumanian Patti," has created a very favourable impression at that house by her impressive singing of "La Marseillaise." She wears the Phrygian red cap of Liberty, and her fine voice does complete justice to the stirring strains of "Rouget de l'Isle." As a contrast she opens with the "doll" song from the "Tales of Hoffman."

I am glad to see that a resolution will be submitted to the Alhambra shareholders' meeting on Tuesday next asking their sanction to the payment of a pension of £1 per week to Alfred Oxley, an employee of the company for forty-nine years, who was obliged to retire last year owing to ill-health.

Before our next issue that hardy and uncommonly young veteran, Will Oliver, will have received a number of kind messages and hearty congratulations from friends in all parts of the country on his sixty-third birthday. The happy day is Tuesday next (February 23).

Cheeriest of optimists, Will Oliver, during a long career, has been wise for others. He has pioneered many acts, some of which have reached the goal of success mainly through his fostering care and power of hustle. "Spot Lodge," Stockwell Park-road, with its fine fruit garden, about 100 yards from the Clapham-road, is a busy centre of activity, where our Willie is assisted by an energetic helpmeet and cheered by the "kiddies," who no doubt chorus at the family festivals the famous Oliver anthem, "My father's face."

With hundreds of other friends, we of the "Era" shall raise our glasses on Tuesday next, and wish many happy returns to the popular "Spot," whose record shows the world of variety that the business enterprise of the middleman can be conducted with clean hands.

THE PILGRIM.

"The Era" has a larger circulation than that of any other theatrical or variety journal published in the United Kingdom.

THE CASE OF HARRIETT VERNON.

We are glad to be able to report that Miss Harriett Vernon's unfortunate position has been widely referred to in the Press, amongst those papers who have noticed it being the following:—The "Standard," "Daily Graphic," "Daily Chronicle," "Star," "Evening News," "Manchester Courier," "Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury," "Morning Advertiser," "Sportman," "Liverpool Echo," and the "Evening Standard and St. James's Gazette."

In addition, we have received a number of letters from friends who, whilst expressing their sympathy with Miss Vernon, desire to do something to assist the fund we are raising on her behalf.

Doubtless the wide publicity given to the matter by the Press, and the great interest shown by her many friends throughout the country, will result in a large response to our appeal.

The honorary treasurer has the pleasure to acknowledge the following sums up to the moment of going to press:—

The Principals of Mr. Harry Burns' Forty Thieves' Co.—		£ s. d.	
Miss Maudie Francis	2	0	0
Maudie Hughes, Miss Rose Wylie, Two Old Admirals, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Learmouth	5	10	0
Miss Gerlie Gitana	2	0	0
S. W. Page, Esq.	2	0	0
Percy B. Broadhead, Esq.	2	0	0
F. Hoie, Esq.	1	0	0
Herbert Shelley, Esq.	1	0	0
T. W. Plews, Esq.	1	0	0
H. G. Gannaway, Esq.	0	2	6
All cheques should be made payable to Alfred Barnard, Esq., and crossed "The Harriett Vernon Fund," and addressed to "The Era" Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand.			

THE V.A.F. COMMITTEE.

ELECTED FOR THREE YEARS.

The scrutineers appointed at the recent annual general meeting of the V.A.F. have announced that the following members have been duly returned to fill the thirty-six vacancies on the Executive Committee:—

Fred Russell, Harry Tate, Wal Pink, Albert Le Fre, George D'Alberty, Harry Lauder, Marriott Edgar, Signor Borelli, Steve McCarthy, Joe McConnell, Ryder Sloan, Charles R. Whittle, Joe Tenyson, Jay Laurier, James Foreman, Charles Rich, Harry Delevine, J. W. Knowles, Percy Delevine, Harry Barrett, Bert Vasco, John Le Hay, Ben Obo, Bert Williams, Horace Wheatley, Leoni Clark, Barney Armstrong, J. Miller Stelfox, Rowland Hill, John Donald, Max Sterling, Andie Caine, Frank Saraski, Bruce Green, J. C. McMahon, Martin Henderson.

"THE MISSING LINK."

Comedy Sketch, by Charles Baldwin and Ernie Lotings, Produced at the Empress, Brixton, on Monday, Feb. 15.

The slight story of "The Missing Link," the new comedy sketch, which met with an enthusiastic reception at Brixton on Monday, affords excellent scope for the eccentric humour of Mr. Ernie Lotings. Amelia Martin is under the delusion that years ago she had a son, but that she lost him in Corsica. To humour her, Dr. Gray (of the asylum) inserts an advertisement offering £500 reward for the longest son. This is an opportunity for the shady William Bailey to foist Jimmy Jossor (the missing link) on the unsuspecting mother. The scene in which Jimmy meets his demented parent is very funny. The £500 is handed over to William Bailey, but Jimmy steals it, and then the doctor arrives. He sees the trick which has been played, and under the pretext of giving Jossor a drink, alarms everybody by stating that it is arsenic. The shock, however, restores Amelia Martin's mental balance, and Jimmy Jossor's reward, as the curtain falls, is a shower of notes and gold.

Mr. Ernie Lotings is very funny indeed as Jimmy Jossor, and his droll comedy and eccentricities caused roars of laughter. He was ably supported by Mr. Adolph Luck as William Bailey, quite a clever character study; Miss Greta Holm, who, as a demented woman, played a difficult part well; and Mr. Bert Roper as Doctor Gray and Miss. Rie Costa as Annette, the maid.

"THE FOOL."

Sketch, in One Scene, by Robert Leonard, Produced at the Palace Theatre, Bradford, on Monday evening, Feb. 15.

The scene opens at a fashionable hotel, where we are introduced to Heloise Crowe, an actress who wishes to dispose of a play, of which it is presumed she is the authoress. In confidence she explains her plans to Kickem, the waiter, who, under very humorous circumstances, introduces the lady to Yonke, a gentleman of the Hebrew persuasion, who is on the look-out for a speculation. Miss Crowe's eloquence speedily relieves Yonke of a considerable sum in advance as payment for the mythical play, which, in dramatic fashion, she illustrates in a scene by herself. Evidently Yonke is not such a fool as he seems and having been snubbed by the lady, and not being particularly impressed by the recital of her play, he succeeds, by telling her a touching story, in getting his money back.

The dialogue is crisp and exceedingly humorous. Mr. Ford Forrest is exceedingly funny as Yonke; Miss Margaret Scudamore, who has an excellent stage presence, acts well as Heloise Crowe; and Mr. Murray Leonard is smart as Kickem, and makes the most of his opportunities. The sketch goes with a swing from start to finish.

THE LADIES' EMERGENCY FUND

For the Wives and Children of Vaudeville Artistes.

President: Mrs. H. Atkinson.

Vice-Presidents:

Mrs. George Smythson, Mrs. C. Letts, J. Stewart Mallam, Esq., E. Ewart White, Esq.

Committee: Mrs. King-Hoffman, Mrs. Jaffe, Miss E. J. Greener, Miss Topsy Sinden, Miss Cressie Leonard, Miss Phyllis Monkman, Mr. Maurice Hoffman, Mr. Bert Feldman, Mr. Donald Ferguson, Mr. Edmund Russon, Mr. Eric Marchant, Mr. H. Atkinson.

Hon. Sec. (to whom all communications must be addressed),

MISS MARIE STUART,

Room 32 and 33,

18, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C.

The Society acknowledges, with pleasure and gratitude, gifts and donations from the following: Sir John Ellerman, Bart., Sir W. P. Hartley, Bart., T. Elder Hearn, Esq., Ernest Lotings, Esq., Bert Feldman, Esq.

Laura Lady Alredale, Mrs. Almeric Paget, Miss Lillian Braithwaite, Miss Gerlie Gitana, Miss Lucie Linda, Mrs. J. Janis, Miss Elsie Janis, Miss Chevalier.

The Society will be much obliged by those ladies and gentlemen who still have collecting cards from last year returning the same without delay.

Owing to the enormous number of applications, artistes are particularly requested to note that only the wives and children of vaudeville artistes are eligible. During the past five months applications have been received from 256 people, of whom 18 have been refused for various reasons; 44 loans have been granted; 42 cases have been granted temporary relief; the remainder (152) have been in receipt of weekly grants of money, food, clothing, &c. Several artistes, stranded on the Continent when the War broke out, have been brought back to England, and have been found permanent homes and employment, while others have been placed in nursing or convalescent homes at the seaside or elsewhere. To maintain the work on this level, funds are urgently needed, and the Society will be glad to hear of any lady or gentleman who is willing to help in the work.

"DIVORCE WHILE YOU WAIT."

A "Brief," in One Act, by George Paston and Francis Couthe, Produced at the Manchester Hippodrome on Monday, Feb. 15.

Thomas Challenger Mr. Arthur Bouchier
Brown Mr. Claude Edmonds
Hon. Mrs. Featherleigh, Miss Violet Vanbrugh
The action of this rather trifling but entertaining sidelight upon a phase of society life takes place in the office of Droppit and Challenger, a firm of solicitors, to whom comes the Hon. Mrs. Featherleigh, intent upon obtaining a divorce. She impresses upon Mr. Challenger, who receives her, that she must have the divorce at once; there is no evidence to show that her case will stand the test of an examination in the courts, but she says that Challenger must obtain the necessary evidence. He, naturally, would explain that her case is ridiculous, but this is of no avail. Therefore, seizing the situation as it stands, in order to bring home to her some sense of the gap she would create between herself and the husband whose function is to protect her (while he remains her husband) from the attentions of other men, Mr. Challenger assumes an insidious pretence of failing in love with her. This has the desired effect, for the lady is frightened, and in the scene that ensues the place is disarranged. When he tells her that her husband is waiting to interview him, with the same object as her own, her state is such that she begs to be allowed to drop the case and leave. This, however, is merely bluff on Challenger's part; but, just at this point, the telephone bell rings, and he learns that her husband has actually arrived, though not for the purpose already mentioned. What the latter wants is Challenger's company to supper at his club. This, however, causes sufficient consternation. Challenger asks him to wait below, as he is busy with a client. Then the couple endeavour to straighten up the room. The bell rings again; the husband can wait no longer, and is coming upstairs. Challenger has locked the office door. As the footsteps come up he goes to open it, but cannot find the key. The situation becomes instantly compromising, and both are really excited over it, but the key is found just as the knock comes on the door. Then in comes—not the husband, but the clerk, Brown, who explains that the visitor has left a note instead and taken his departure. The anticipation is exciting in its way, and the whole situation is worked out to the very last ounce of its value. Mr. Arthur Bouchier's easy and convincing style being well in evidence as the solicitor, Challenger; while Miss Violet Vanbrugh's charming distress as the Hon. Mrs. Featherleigh, who would have a divorce at a minute's notice, but realises her folly by virtue of the episode which the attempt brings about, carried the part through in excellent spirit. It may be added that her gown was particularly beautiful.

"WAR SEAL" FOUNDATION.

HOMES FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS.

Mr. Oswald Stoll has originated a scheme which has for its object the care of soldiers so seriously disabled in the war that, from their service pension and the National Insurance Act allowances, they will have too little for themselves and nothing for the needs of others.

There are, unfortunately, many such cases, and any scheme which meets their needs is entitled to, and should receive, widespread sympathy and support. Mr. Stoll calls his scheme "The War Seal Foundation," and it has the merit of great simplicity of working.

"If," he says, in a circular letter just issued, "every person who writes a letter will make a duty to seal the envelope at the back with a halfpenny War Seal, designed in the form of an adhesive disabled service stamp, and if whoever receives a letter so sealed will in like manner seal a reply, then within the space of twelve months millions of money will be obtained."

The object is to place disabled soldiers in a position to live comfortably with their families upon the pensions and allowances for which they are entitled.

The offices of the War Seal Foundation are Coliseum Buildings, St. Martin's-lane, W.C., and the organising secretary is Mr. Chester Fox.

Mr. Alfred Poynton will make his first appearance in London next week at the Empire, Camberwell, in an up-to-date protean act.

Park's Eton Boys and Giltan Girls are making a triumphal tour of the Macnashten Circuit, and will be shortly returning to London.

The friends of Mr. Bert E. Ward, who for many years was manager of the Palace Theatre, Cork, will learn with regret of the death of his wife (professionally known as Ruby Donovan), who passed away suddenly on Wednesday last of apoplexy.

Francis O'Flynn, the banjoist, informs us that he has four offers from Miss Freda Waring's services, as principal boy, in pantos, for season 1915-16. Freda has been appearing under the auspices of Mr. Bannister Howard and Mr. Jas. Kiddie with great success as Dick Whittington, and both Mr. O'Flynn and Miss Waring were immediately booked by Mr. Milton Bode for his vaudeville season.

The balance-sheet of the Hippodrome, Bristol (St. Augustine's-parade), records that the net profit for the year, after allowing for interest and other charges against revenue, amounts to £3,975 5s. 1d., from which has to be deducted the dividend at the rate of 55 per cent. per annum upon the preference shares paid in July last, leaving a balance of £3,360 10s. 1d. to be dealt with. The directors now recommend that a further half-year's dividend, less tax, be paid upon the preference shares, absorbing £269 9s. 1d., and that the balance of £2,800 1s. 0d. be carried forward to the current year's account.

FELDMAN'S NEW SONGS

**BY THE
WORLD'S GREATEST
WRITERS**

WILL BE READY

FOR

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STAR MUSIC CO., Ltd.

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BENNETT SCOTT.

"THE" SEASON'S "HITS"

WONDERFUL ROSE OF LOVE.

I'LL MAKE YOU WANT ME.

SANDY BOY (My Soldier Laddie).

BOYS IN KHAKI, BOYS IN BLUE.

I DO LIKE A S'NICE S'MINCE S'PIE.

KISS ME GOOD-BYE, SOLDIER BOY.

SAMMY, COME OVER HERE.

WEDDING OF THE JOY-RIDE GIRL.

YOU'VE GOT ME AND I'VE GOT YOU.

IF I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME.

THE HONEYMOON TRAIN.

JAPANESE BUTTERFLY LAND.

THE STAR MUSIC CO., Ltd., 51, High Street, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.

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Wires—"SONGONIA, LONDON."

'Some' Songs

"WHO WEARS THE BREECHES?"

An amusing little skit on domestic life, "Who Wears the Breeches?" figures prominently in this week's programme at the Metropolitan, Edgware-road. The story teems with ludicrous situations and keeps the audience in a state of perpetual merriment from start to finish. Mr. Critchett has very pronounced views as to what should constitute his daily duties, and does not wish to be disturbed in his business—and golf—by such trivialities as childish complaints. His little daughter contracts measles and her anxious mother seeks his consolation and advice; but Mr. Critchett adopts an attitude of undisguised resentment at having such domestic affairs intruded upon his attention. It so happens that one day, when he is keen on an impending game of golf, he receives a deputation from his workmen, who have struck in sympathy for a discharged employee. Haughty in bearing, Mr. Critchett rejects all overtures to discuss the situation until a peaceful settlement is secretly arranged by his wife, who successfully contrives to appease both employer and employed. How this is done matters little, but in the end all credit for the happy issue is claimed by the exceedingly tactless Mr. Critchett, much to the delight of the audience. The principal parts are very cleverly sustained by Miss Dorothy Dandas as Mrs. Critchett, Mr. Frederick Kerr as Mr. Critchett, Mr. Alfred Rivers, Mr. Charles Wemyss, and Mr. Charles King, while Miss Madge Travers makes an attractive servant. The sketch should not be missed by those in need of a hearty laugh.

THE KUBA QUARTETTE.

At the Camberwell Empire last week an unusually good musical turn was to be seen in the Kuba Quartette. Composed of four young ladies, the quartette, who are to be congratulated upon an artistic performance throughout, opened their act with a 'cello solo, one of Brahms' dances, which was rendered with mastery and feeling. There are only two of the quartette on the stage for this opening number. Presently singing is heard off, and two girls appear in Belgian dress. "Dolores" sings "The sunshine of your smile" very effectively, and then follows a rendering of a Liszt rhapsody, the playing of which upon two pianos, a 'cello, and a piccolo was a real triumph. Their programme is largely classical, although it is tempered effectively at the end by a clever variation of "Tipperary," and the act was much appreciated at the Camberwell Empire on the night of our visit.

MUSIC HALL LADIES' GUILD.

3, Newport House, Gt. Newport-street, W.C.

The secretary gratefully thanks the following for donations:—The Virena Toy Shop Co., 5s.; Miss Victoria Monks, 2s. 6d.; Officer Dada, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. J. W. Edgar, £1; Mrs. Oval, 2s.; Miss Flo Banks (collection), 10s.; Miss Adele Stuart (collection), 3s.; Mr. Norris Smith, clothing. Dr. Berkeley, Kennington-road is thanked for attending one of our cases free. A "fiddle," seventy years old, has been sent as a gift. Will anyone call and see same at the Guild offices? Men's warm underwear and top coats are needed.

Our Hastings correspondent writes:—"The Dutch Hussars" went strong at the Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, last week, playing to capital audiences on the two-houses-a-night system recently inaugurated there. Jake Friedman, a host in himself, is ably supported by Miss Florence Huxton and a first-rate company.

MUSIC HALL PRODUCTIONS

JANUARY.

"The Deserter," dramatic war episode, by Barry Sheil; Hippodrome, Chelmsford, Jan. 4.
"On Secret Service," sensational episode, by A. S. Hardy; London Pavilion, Jan. 4.
"For Russia," sketch, by John Pollock; London Coliseum, Jan. 4.
"She Opened His Eyes," sketch; Palace, Southampton, Jan. 4.
"Sexton Blake at the East Coast," dramatic sketch, by J. Russell Bogue; Olympia, Shore-ditch, Jan. 4.
"Christina's Recruits," sketch, by J. J. Bell; Alhambra, Glasgow, Jan. 6.
"Stagestruck," burlesque, with music, by Leslie Stiles and Fred Farren, music by Cuthbert Clarke, lyrics by Charles Willmott, Harry Wynne, and Leonard Cooke; Victoria Palace, Jan. 11.
"We'll Learn 'Em," comedy sketch, by S. Fortescue Harrison and Charles Baldwin; Surrey, Jan. 11.
"Something Doing," musical extravaganza, invented and arranged by George Ray; Finsbury Park Empire, Jan. 13.
"The Magic Touch," musical comedy, by George Arthurs and Charles Danvers, music composed and arranged by Leon Bassett, and with incidental numbers by Louis Nirsch and Maxwell Brunell; Walthamstow Palace, Jan. 18.
"His Nibs," Anglo-Oriental musical comedy sketch, by Charles Baldwin and Herbert Darnley; Willesden Hippodrome, Jan. 18.
"The Divorcee," sketch, by H. Brinsley Hill; Empire, Glasgow, Jan. 19.
"Stolen Fruit," comedy, by Cyril Twyford; Euston, Jan. 25.
"How She Fell," sketch, by Arthur Eckersley; Metropolitan, Jan. 25.

"GERMANS POSING AS BELGIANS."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Dear Sir—In your issue of the 20th ult. appeared a letter under the above heading signed "Patriotic," for which I am responsible, and in writing which I was actuated by purely patriotic motives.

It had reference to the Five Cliftons, and I find that I have unwittingly done a grave injustice not only to an undoubtedly clever troupe, with an established reputation in this country, but to their pioneer, Mr. Will Oliver. I was misled, however, by the fact that at the end of July, at the South Coast hall mentioned in my letter, the troupe were not billed as Belgians, and also by an incorrect statement of the police authorities at the northern town where they appeared later in the year. I am pleased to find that the nationality of the troupe is as stated in your note, and desire to express to Mr. Constant Loos and the members of his talented combination, and also to Mr. Will Oliver, my sincere regret for the annoyance and inconvenience my letter has caused them.—Your faithfully,

T. RENAUD LOCKWOOD.

County Theatre, Bedford, Feb. 13.

The Ladies' Territorial Committee, of 75, Chancery-lane, W.C., appeals very urgently for cast-off kid or leather gloves of all kinds, soft leather, discarded leather chair covers, fur linings, &c., to be pieced together to make undercoats for sailors and soldiers in exposed situations. Each coat costs one shilling to produce; therefore every shilling sent means work for a woman and warmth for a man. Such coats always on view at the office, as above.

LITTLE VIOLET KEMPLER.

"The smallest ballet dancer in the World." Such is the description which has been given to Miss Lila Field's clever and engaging little pupil Violet Kempler, who, a short while ago, was engaged by Messrs. Walter and Frederick Melville for the final weeks of their very successful pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk," at the Lyceum. Violet—who is only eleven years of age—is a most charming and pretty child. She is as bright and merry as a cricket—and withal, quite a serious young person when talking of her work. Those who have seen Violet dance at the Lyceum have been both delighted by her artistry and captivated by her winsome manner.

"I think it most justly being a dancer at the Lyceum," said Violet one afternoon last week to



LITTLE VIOLET KEMPLER.

an "Era" man. "Some people have called me a little London star, but Miss Field said—didn't you, Miss Field?—I must not believe that quite yet, though"—vivaciously—"perhaps I may be soon. I know I just love my work, and I think the Lyceum Theatre most beautiful."

At this juncture the little dancer was "called" for the stage; and Miss Field continued: "Violet has had all her training in England under me; and I think I can claim to have trained and brought out a very clever child artiste. Everyone predicts a great future for her. At the end of the run of 'Jack and the Beanstalk,' I have booked Violet for the halls. Her engagements, indeed, extend to next autumn."

Violet here entered the dressing-room, flushed with the excitement of the applause always accorded her—for she is quite a favourite with Lyceum audiences. Said she: "Oh, I have had such a lot of dolls and toys given me by people in the audience; and when I appeared at Torquay last Christmas I had the stage full of toys."

THE PROFESSION WITH THE COLOURS.

(NINETEENTH LIST.)

Chapman, T. Crawford, Gunner, 15th Reserve Batt. Royal Field Artillery.
Douglas, Peter, Public Schools Batt. Middlesex Regt.
Essex, Clifford, Sergeant, Second Sportsman's Battalion.
Graham, Ernest, 2nd Lieutenant, 8th (Reserve) Batt. Hampshire Regt.
Gulliver, A. T., Second Sportsman's Batt.
Mortimer-Hancock, Geo., Lance-Corporal, Army Service Corps.
Irwin, F. A., Sergt. (Alex. J. Haveland), R.F.A. Needham, W. (Lance Stevens), 10th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
Powell, Francis P. Bulteel (Bellenden Powell), West Kent (Q. O.) Yeomanry.
Saunders, Cecil, III, Heavy Battery, 7th Division British Expeditionary Force.

"THE DUTCH HUSSARS," AT PUTNEY.

That the English owner of a ranch out West—where the "boys" all wear red shirts, woolly trousers, and revolvers, and the "girls" are dashing, beautiful, and plentiful—should have a son who is a captain of some Dutch hussars; that the son should pay a visit to the parental roof (which must be some thousands of miles away), accompanied by a detachment of his regiment, himself and men all in full uniform; these and many equally curious things, which in ordinary life would be regarded as somewhat abnormal, are accepted quite as a matter of course in revue and musical comedy. In fact, they rather excite one's interest; one wonders what on earth the next extravagance will be. "The Dutch Hussars," which, like so many similar entertainments, is described as a revue, but has not the slightest claim to the title, is certainly, however, quite a bright show, and is remarkable for the excellence of its staging and dressing, its fine chorus, and the comedy of Mr. Jake Friedman. The scenes outside the ranch and in the Indian encampment (there is a front-cloth scene between), are very well staged, and the energy and good singing of the chorus are also notable. Mr. Friedman, of course, is an old favourite, and in the rôle of the Anglo-Dutch soldier-servant to the already-mentioned captain, has a part which affords him abundant scope for his natural and genuine humour. The heroine of the show is quite well played and sung by Miss Florence Huxton.

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

Amongst the applications for L.C.C. renewal of licences the consideration of which was postponed on Jan. 29 was that of Howard Milton Hartman, the Empire Variety Agency, Charing Cross-mansions, Charing Cross-road.

Mr. Ollis, of the Public Control Department, said that the application had been adjourned from time to time, and the Committee now granted the renewal of the licence.

It was reported that Mr. Tom Payne, of St. Dunstan's-road, Baron's Court, who had applied for a new licence for a theatrical and variety agency, had withdrawn his application.

On Wednesday, the 10th, a considerable number of the British and Belgian convalescent soldiers, together with the nurses from the various local hospitals, were invited by the management of the Aldershot Palace to a special matinee. The programme comprised varieties and pictures, whilst the excellent band of the 12th Reserve Regiment Cavalry, conducted by Mr. G. J. Croble, was greatly appreciated by a large audience.

THE STAR CO.'S SONGS.

Miss Edna Latonne, who plays the title-rôle in "Dick Whittington," at the Regent, Salford, this week, charmingly renders the Star Co.'s premier ballad, "Wonderful rose of love."

Miss Glauys Wyse has made a great success in Mr. Rich Weldon's Princess's, Glasgow, pantomime with the Star Co.'s popular Scotch song, "Sandy boy," by A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott, which is received with the warmest approval. "Sammy, come over here," by the same authors, is another of her popular numbers.

Miss Daphne Dare made a hit in the Harry Lane company's new revue, "All Trumpe," at the Pavilion, Weymouth, on Monday with the Star Co.'s dainty "production" numbers, "In your quaint frills and laces," by Percy Edgar and Ed. Cuthbertson, and "In Japanese butterfly land," by John P. Harrington and Alec Henley.

This immediately successful revue opens at the Gaiety, Hastings, on Monday next. To hear Mr. Fred Barnes in the Tyne, Newcastle, pantomime sing the Star Co.'s great patriotic number, "Boys in khaki, boys in blue," by A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott, is a sheer delight, and this number is undoubtedly the big outstanding song-hit of a very fine show. Mr. Barnes also sings several other Star songs, notably "You've got me and I've got you," by Fred Godfrey and Bennett Scott.

In William Fowell's successful aquatic revue, "The Lovely Limit," at the Poplar Hippodrome this week, two of the biggest hits are Mr. Gerald Williams and Doris Joy's delightful duet, "You've got me and I've got you," by Fred Godfrey and Bennett Scott, and "Sammy, come over here," by Mills and Scott, sung by Miss Beatrice Evelyn. Both are Star songs.

WAR EMERGENCY ENTERTAINMENTS.

The War Emergency Entertainments are proceeding with much energy. A large audience gathered at Claridge's on Wednesday afternoon last to hear the Rev. Father Bernard Vaughan speak most eloquently, earnestly and humorously on the temperamental artist's drift on a sea of real life difficulties; his temperament, at a time when the ability to turn one's hand to practical uses is the only asset of value, more of a curse than a blessing to him. It is to be hoped that Father Vaughan's remarks were effective in opening the hearts, and purses, of his hearers, for Mme. Janotha, who was present to contribute pianoforte solos, had brought her famous "White Heather" to collect for the funds. Mr. Leodore de Lara's singing of his "Garden of sleep" was much appreciated; other items were given by Miss Mackenzie Fairfax, Clara Jones, Violet Heiler, and Elsie Stell, and Mr. Bertram Binyon. At the Savoy Hotel on Friday afternoon quite a talented company entertained an unfortunately sparse audience. The singers were Miss Elsie Morelli, a mezzo-soprano of excellent quality who knows how to sing; Miss Gladys Byrd, a dramatic contralto who makes a feature of fine old Welsh airs, and appears in national Welsh costume; Mr. Fred Williams, and Mr. Ben Morgan. Miss Phyllis Haseluck played 'cello solos, and clever Miss Constance Cooman gave her always welcome recitations. Mr. Percy B. Morelli accompanied well.

A company that is exceptionally busy at the present time is that of D. Napier and Son, Ltd., manufacturers of the well-known Napier cars. The Acton works are kept at high pressure in manufacturing ambulances, cars, and transport wagons for the British and Allied Governments. Already immense deliveries have been made to Russia and to our own Government.

ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

The annual meeting was held yesterday afternoon at the New Theatre. Sir Charles Wyndham presided.

The Committee, in submitting the report and accounts for the past year, gratefully acknowledged the highly-valued patronage and generous assistance bestowed upon the Fund by His Majesty the King, the Queen, Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, H.R.H. the Princess Mary, and the Grand Duke Michael of Russia.

The Committee also reported that "the inauguration of the Actors' Emergency War Fund by Sir Herbert Tree (of which Sir Squire Bancroft is chairman) in order to assist our Fund during the stress of war, has been an unqualified success. By the revival of 'Drake' at His Majesty's Theatre, Sir Herbert has handed over to the Fund the large sum of £1,034; and to Sir Herbert, who gave his services gratuitously during the run of eleven weeks, and to the members of his company who, by playing at reduced salaries, enabled this large result to be obtained, the Committee tender their most cordial and grateful thanks. In this connection, although the very handsome sums handed over to the Fund from the matinees given at Theatre Royal, Drury-lane, Covent Garden Theatre, and the Alhambra Theatre do not come into the accounts for the past year, the Committee desire to place on record their most cordial and grateful thanks to Mr. Dion Boucicault, who organised the matinees at Covent Garden and Drury Lane, and also to Mr. André Charlot, who organised the matinee at the Alhambra Theatre."

The Committee acknowledged with thanks generous assistance given to the Fund by their comrades in America and others, and in conclusion reported that the subscribers have considerably increased during the past year, and that in consequence the Committee have been able to augment the Fund's benevolence in several directions.

According to the statement of accounts for the year ending Dec. 31, 1914, the balance in hand is £201 5s. 7d.

The chairman proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir Herbert Tree, in seconding, said that there was one thing which he noticed had not been mentioned in the report just read. That was the work of the Arts Fund, which had Miss Langhorne as its chairman and Sir George Alexander as its treasurer. To its activities they owed a considerable sum. It was doing wonderfully good work; and in this connection he thought he ought to mention Miss Constance Collier, to whose energies it owed its origin, and who had worked very assiduously for the good of the Fund. Under Sir George Alexander's wing the Fund was doing extremely well. They had also to congratulate themselves upon the prosperity and great activities of the Actors' Benevolent Fund during the past year. Some time ago he ventured to say that a hospital never was prosperous except when it was in a state of bankruptcy, as then it obtained donations. Their Fund was not in a state of bankruptcy, as neither before had they so much invested capital, while, owing to the fore-sight which had been exercised, they had been able to grapple with the exceptional distress and still have a considerable sum in hand. But it should be remembered that they had to look to the future. There was an enemy in front, and for him they had to find a good deal of ammunition, not only in copper but in silver and gold. Happily they had a hope of getting a good deal more. Mention was made in the report of Covent Garden Theatre matinee, and Sir Charles Wyndham had reminded him that the result of that performance was a payment of £2,000 to come. And there was also the Playgoers' Club contribution. They had every cause to rejoice that they had all these resources, a fact they had realised this year more than ever before. Without outside assistance they had all these resources with which to grapple with any distress that might arise in the future. In no other walk of life probably had greater provision been made for the distress that might be looming ahead than in their own profession, and that reflected dignity upon it. They had every reason to congratulate themselves and to thank Sir Chas. Wyndham for the care and the time he had devoted to the Fund.

The motion was put and carried. Mrs. Edward Compton, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Committee, spoke of the splendid work which for many years this Fund had done. During the last terrible months of stress and trouble none could imagine what would have happened to the poor folk of the theatres had it not been for the splendid band of men who had given so much of their time, their energy, and their ability to the work. She was sure that as Sir Herbert Tree had suggested, they all felt the dignity of their profession more than ever before. They indeed felt very proud of what the profession had done during these times of great sorrow and stress. The speaker also made reference to the Theatre's Club which had been opened and had done such good work.

Mrs. Wright seconded the motion, which was then carried.

Mr. M. B. Morand responded on behalf of the Committee. He said he had been a member of the Committee for a great number of years, and could assure them that the position was not a sinecure. The work they did with a certain amount of pain but a great amount of pleasure. Since the beginning of the war, thanks to the generosity of the leaders of their profession and the public, they had spent a lot of money, but they were thankful they had more in hand to spend. In conclusion, Mr. Morand made an appeal to leading members of the profession not to give privately in response to appeals, but to send all applicants to the Committee, as no deserving cases were ever turned down.

Mr. Chas. Cruikshank proposed votes of thanks to hon. standing counsel, Mr. J. Safford; to the hon. solicitors, Messrs. J. Mote and Son; to the hon. auditors, Messrs. W. Westcott, Maskell and Co.; also to the hon. physicians and dentists, Drs. C. Atkin Swan, R. P. Middlemist, Mr. Hubert J. Woodbridge, Mr. P. de Pinto; and their re-election.

Mr. Frederick Ross seconded the resolution, which was acknowledged by Mr. P. de Pinto, hon. dental surgeon.

Sir Squire Bancroft then proposed the re-election of Sir Chas. Wyndham as President of the Fund and a vote of thanks to him for presiding. He said he had played this part before, and he sincerely hoped and trusted he would be allowed to appear in it again. Their dear old friend was indeed the right man in the right place. All of them remembered, and would always remember, the great interest Sir Charles had from its commencement taken in the welfare of the Fund, and the very exceptional and munificent help he had rendered its banking account. His efforts and example had placed the Fund in such a position as, he hoped, it would always maintain.

Sir George Alexander said he had much pleasure in seconding the proposal. He was sure that it was the hope of all of them that Sir Charles would long occupy the position he had filled with so much honour to himself and the profession he adorned. He should like to include in the vote of thanks Sir Squire Bancroft for the special part he had taken in the Emergency War Fund, of which he was chairman. The work could not have been placed in better hands.

Mr. Colston seconded the motion, which was carried amid applause.

Sir Chas. Wyndham said he was deeply obliged to them for the warm reception the proposal had met with. It had afforded him the greatest pleasure to act as President, and as long as he held that position he should continue to do his best.

Sir Squire Bancroft also acknowledged the kind allusions which had been made to him in connection with the Emergency Fund, and the meeting then closed.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

An attractive concert was given by the students of the College on Friday evening last. The standard of achievement attained by the young performers was very high indeed. The rendering, for instance, of the "Quartet for Strings in E flat major," Op. 51 (Dvorak), could scarcely have been bettered, so true was the intonation of the four instruments, so correct the phrasing, so excellent the ensemble.

The players were Dora Garland, Doris Houghton, Sybil Maturin, and Helen Beeching. Almost equally successful were Winifred McBride, Ivy Wigmore, Janet Macfie, and Dorothy Chubb, in the "Quartet for Pianoforte and Strings in G minor," Op. 25 (Brahms). The next execution of Winifred McBride in the pianoforte part must be particularly commended. Beethoven's "Sonata for Pianoforte and Violin in D major," Op. 12, No. 1, was played by Eileen M. Beattie and Nancy P. Phillips. Both were very good indeed; the free bowing of the violinist was admirable. Edith Lake gave a suave and agreeable rendering of Max Bruch's "Canzone" for cello. Songs were contributed by Mari Edwards, who has an expressive voice, and by Frederick W. Taylor, a very good baritone, who gave two of Albert Mallinson's fine songs excellently well. The clever accompanists were George Ball and Albert Midgley.

Last evening another successful concert, choral and orchestral, was given at the College. The programme was made up of Borodin's Symphonic Poem, "The Steppes," César Franck's "Symphonic Variations for Pianoforte and Orchestra," in F sharp minor, and Verdi's "Requiem."

B. FELDMAN AND CO.'S SONGS.

With the end of the pantomimes in view, artists are now casting their eyes around in search of fresh musical matter with which to maintain and enhance their reputations. That is the reason why the professional staff of Feldman and Co. are just now extremely busy. The best writers are attached to the Arthur-street house, and are continually producing brilliant and effective musical hits. Artists who have not yet learned the value of a visit to Feldman's should lose no time in calling. They will "get there" in the best sense of the American phrase.

Mr. J. O. Shepherd, the well-known Liverpool musical director, writes:—"Last week I attended a pantomime matinee given to the children of soldiers. The orchestra played 'Tipperaryland,' and to hear these children, 3,000 of them, joining in the choruses was something to remember. I thought I was getting blasé, and that there were no more thrills in a musical sense, for me; but I found that I was mistaken. The effect of the children's voices in the choruses of 'Tipperary,' 'Irish eyes,' &c., was delightful."

The singing of the children at the Drury Lane matinee last week was most refreshing. They chorused "Tipperary" wholeheartedly, and even when Jimmy Glover turned on another number the youngsters still kept on the "long, long way." They had their way, too, for Mr. Glover had to link up with them again.

Miss Lena Ashwell's concert party, which left yesterday for Havre and Rouen, where they will entertain the soldiers, includes the renowned soprano vocalist, Miss Alice Lilley, who will sing "Mother Macree" and "When Irish eyes are smiling." "Tipperary," of course, will not be overlooked.

In the Harry Lane Revue Co.'s new musical comedy revue, "All Tramps," which was successfully produced on Monday night at the Pavilion, Weymouth, three Feldman numbers are specially featured, and met with much approval. These are: "Take me round to the night club," sung by Miss Ruth Lytton; "That croony melody," sung by Rex Anderson; and "The Anglo-American girl," sung by William Greene.

Daisy Dornier has earned the appreciation of patrons of the Theatre Royal, Manchester, by her wonderful rendition of "When Irish eyes are smiling." As principal girl in "Goody Two Shoes" Miss Dornier is a distinct success.

North London sportsmen will rally to the aid of the Prince of Wales' Fund, Queen Mary's "Work for Women," and the Belgian Relief Fund, on Thursday, March 4, when a bohemian concert will be given at the Calcedonian-road Baths, Calcedonian-road, N. A most attractive musical programme has been prepared.

"ALIAS IRISH TESSIE."

American Detective Sketch, Produced at the Kilburn Empire on Monday, Feb. 15.

Bill Keegan Mr. Richard Norton
Kathleen Miss Ada D. Hatchwell
Tessie O'Brien, alias "Irish Tessie"

There is plenty of excitement in this short sketch, which should prove very attractive. In Tessie's rooms we find Kathleen, the maid, packing her mistress's numerous trunks preparatory to leaving New York for San Francisco. At intervals Kathleen sees from the window a man who is apparently watching the house. Tessie enters, and after telephoning to the Express office for a van to call for the luggage, goes out to do a little shopping. Then enters the detective, Bill Keegan, who at first mistakes Kathleen for the mistress; but afterwards informs her what Tessie's real occupation is, that of a shoplifter. As Tessie is seen returning, Bill makes Kathleen hide in one of the trunks, while he goes behind a screen. Tessie enters, and after telephoning to the Express office for a van to call for the luggage, goes out to do a little shopping. Then enters the detective, Bill Keegan, who at first mistakes Kathleen for the mistress; but afterwards informs her what Tessie's real occupation is, that of a shoplifter. As Tessie is seen returning, Bill makes Kathleen hide in one of the trunks, while he goes behind a screen. Tessie enters, and after telephoning to the Express office for a van to call for the luggage, goes out to do a little shopping. Then enters the detective, Bill Keegan, who at first mistakes Kathleen for the mistress; but afterwards informs her what Tessie's real occupation is, that of a shoplifter. As Tessie is seen returning, Bill makes Kathleen hide in one of the trunks, while he goes behind a screen.

THE O.P. CLUB.

Mr. Augustus Yorke, of the firm of Pofash and Perlmutter, came to the Hotel Cecil on Sunday evening to talk to the O.P.C. members and their friends about "Tammany and the Theatre." It was an attractive title. He talked—about many things—for a pleasant hour or so. And when Mr. MacDonald Rendle rose at the conclusion, and earnestly, with a humour that was pathetic and a pathos that was humorous, begged the speaker, while there was yet time, to tell us, in a sort of feminine postscript, which might contain the whole of the message, why, for what reason, apart from their persuasive alliterativeness, had Mr. Yorke brought Tammany and the Theatre into conjunction; what has Tammany to do with the Theatre, anyway, a good many among the audience, like plaintive Echo, answered, Why, and What?

Mr. Yorke had touched upon most things under the New York sun, and in the London fog, in his talk: politics and Mr. Roosevelt, our quene

upon international questions. Tammany Hall, still a powerful influence in home politics, views with an indifferent; even a kindly eye, the ever-strengthening bond of friendship between the English and their American cousins, a bond which is being cemented not by cotton deals, or beef deals, but by the interchange between the American stage and the English stage. It's laughing together, as Mr. Yorke said, not doing business together, that draws men to each other. The conclusion to be deduced, therefore, was that Tammany has no real influence on the theatre one way or the other; at any rate the O.P. members were "left wondering," for Mr. MacDonald Rendle failed to elicit the postscript. Miss Millie Hylton was in the chair, and fulfilled her duties with grace and tact.

A CRITERION MATINEE.

A charity matinee, in aid of the funds of All Saints' Hospital, Vauxhall Bridge-road, was given at the Criterion Theatre yesterday afternoon. A feature of the programme was the first performance of a one-act play, "A Private Room," by Dion Clayton Catbrough. Unfortunately, it proved a very foolish little play, and was still further spoilt by very evident lack of rehearsal. It depicts the indecision of a susceptible young man, Arthur (Mr. Sam Sothern), with a passion for answering telephones, who has engaged a private room in a country hotel that he may enjoy a quiet little dinner with Grace (Miss Joan Hay). His love-making is perpetually interrupted by the entry of the waiter and calls on the telephone which he tries in vain to resist. A lady, Alice (Miss Margery Sargent), telephones from her bath in another room of the hotel for soap, and is requested to come and fetch it. This she does, and Arthur is endeavouring to decide which of the two he really loves when the obliging waiter rings the fire alarm and clears the room of the two girls in order to announce that a third is waiting below. The best performance was the waiter of Mr. Edward Rigby.

Further items on the programme were Miss Renée Mayer's singing of "Won't you join the army?" accompanied on the piano by the composer, Mr. J. M. Glover; Miss Phyllis Bedells in Dvorak's "Danse Humoresque"; Miss Lottie Venne and Miss Mary Moore, in delightfully given recitations. The third act of "La Kommandatur," by the Belgian company, at the Criterion; Mr. Basil Hallam, Mr. Hayden Coffin, M. Libeau, Mlle. Doris Manuelle, Mlle. Marcelle Parys, M. Maréchal, Miss Nancy Buckland, Mr. Lorne Wallatt and Mlle. Ratmova in songs and duets; Miss Ethel Sharpe, in a piano solo; and M. Duquesne and Mr. Lewis Sydney, in recitations. Mrs. Kendal announced that the funds of the hospital, of which twenty beds are placed at the disposal of sick and wounded soldiers, had benefited to the extent of £187 15s.

Owing to indisposition of one of the cast in "The Girl in the Taxi," Miss Aline Sercombe went on at short notice, and successfully played the part of Rose for a week.

Le-dair, the conjuring Canadian, after seven months' absence, returns this week to the Empire, Burnley, where he is introducing new features in his programme.

A matinee will be given at the St. James's Theatre next Tuesday afternoon, in aid of the funds being raised to provide comforts for the London Welsh Battalion. The programme will include "Some Showers," a short play by Mr. Pett Ridge, in which Miss Rowena Jarome and Mr. Nicholas Hannan will appear. Among the artists who have kindly promised to assist are Misses Gertie Millar, Viola Tree, Mabel Seaby, Marie Dainton, Helen Mar, Phyllis Le Grand, and Messrs. Ben Davies, Mr. Ivor Foster, Mr. Lyn Harding, Mr. Basil Hallam, Mr. Robert Michaelis, and Mr. Griffith Humphreys.

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she enters with some swag, and is just taking off her hat when she sees the detective, who tells her she will have to go with him to the station. Evading him, Tessie seizes a revolver, but before she can aim he has fired his pistol and hurt her wrist. Giving in, she tells him the story of her past. Her lover is in Sing Sing for ten years suffering for a crime committed by another, and she is saving 80,000 dollars out of her shoplifting to share with him when he comes out. Keegan, however, endeavours to make her realise that at the end of the term she herself will be doing "time," and that her lover will then console himself with another woman, and he therefore proposes to marry her and share her money. Kitty scornfully rejects his proposition, and rushes to the table, where she drinks out of a bottle and tells him she has poisoned herself, and that in three minutes she will be dead. Bill going to the telephone for medical aid, Tessie picks up his revolver, makes him hold his hands up, while Kathleen, emerging from the trunk, binds ropes round the detective and gags him, and the two women put him in the trunk, just in time for the Express man, and the curtain falls.

Miss Celia Storm displays an attractive personality as Tessie, and acts with varying shades of power. Miss Ada Hatchwell is a bright Irish maid, and the unscrupulous detective, Bill Keegan, is admirably undertaken by Mr. Richard Norton.

system and its pavement entertainers, Whitechapel and East Side, the ingredients in the "crucible," Court-house eloquence, and the tenement houses, congested mammoths fifteen to twenty stories high.

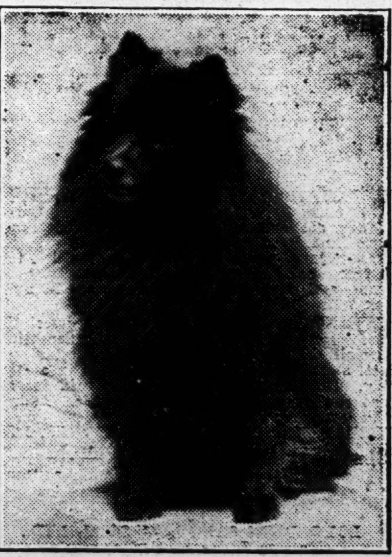
We gathered that Tammany was an organisation of Irishmen in the days when the distressful country's grievances brought about the exile of her sons to the States, that it existed for two considerations: the healthy hatred of England and of everything English, and the holding of official positions in New York.

That it was the Tammany men who were responsible for the ill-success of certain of our great actors on American tours in times gone by, that they organised the riots against Macready when he went out in '48, that, long afterwards, on Henry Irving's first visit, the whole city had been flooded with grotesque caricatures of the actor before he set foot in New York, but that even then the influence of prejudice was waning, and the public that flocked to ridicule remained to praise. It needs only to remember that Forbes-Robertson, Cyril Maude, George Grossmith, are now in the States, drawing the biggest of houses and experiencing the warmest welcomes, to realise that the old bitterness has passed away, that new generations have brought a saner outlook to bear

OUR PETS' PETS.—NO. 2.

MISS KITTY COLYER'S "BUNTY."

This is a picture of Bunty, who pulls the strings of Miss Kitty Colyer's heart. Bunty is a beautiful



(Photo, Hana.)

brown toy Pom, and he is chiefly to be envied—his possessor.

The orchestral rehearsal at the Camberwell Palace every Monday is at twelve o'clock noon. Will artists please note?

Miss Norah Gray writes to correct a statement in our last week's columns concerning the Star Co.'s song, "Rose of love." The song is successfully rendered as a harmonised duet by her and Miss Liane Klaw. Miss Gray, too, is responsible for the harmonising.

A really reliable marking ink is indispensable to members of the profession, and our readers would be well advised to get the royally approved John Bond's "Crystal Palace" marking ink, which is of British manufacture, and has stood the test of 100 years. It can be obtained either in its original form, which requires heating to indelibly fix the writing, or in the new non-heat form, which requires no heating. With every 6d. and 1s. bottle a voucher is enclosed entitling the purchaser to his or her name or monogram rubber stamp, with pad and brush. A new metallic marking-ink pen is given with the 1s. size, and this liberal treatment of customers, no less than the good quality of the ink itself, keeps its sales at a very high and yearly increasing number. Bond's "Crystal Palace" ink has been awarded no fewer than 45 gold medals, etc., for superior excellence in open competition at the world's great international exhibitions.



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DON'T HESITATE! The quickest way of filling your date-book for some months.

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State where to be seen playing.
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Able to head and do two or three tumbling tricks and swing clubs.
State age, terms, &c.
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"Some Rehearsals" (by George Arthurs), now

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"A POLICEMAN AND A MAN."
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Wire for Feb. 22.
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Music Hall Artists' Wants
Continued on Page 20.

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abandoned for this year, owing to the
Wisbech being in such close proximity to the
East Coast.

C. E. F. COPEMAN, Town Clerk.
Wisbech, Feb. 12, 1915.

WANTED, A Reliable Man, used to show
Business. Must understand putting up and
pulling down a small show. Also a Smart Lad, to
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WANTED, Wanted, at once,
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NOTTINGHAM.—Mrs. HARRISON, 33, Gill-st. (off Goldsmith-st.).

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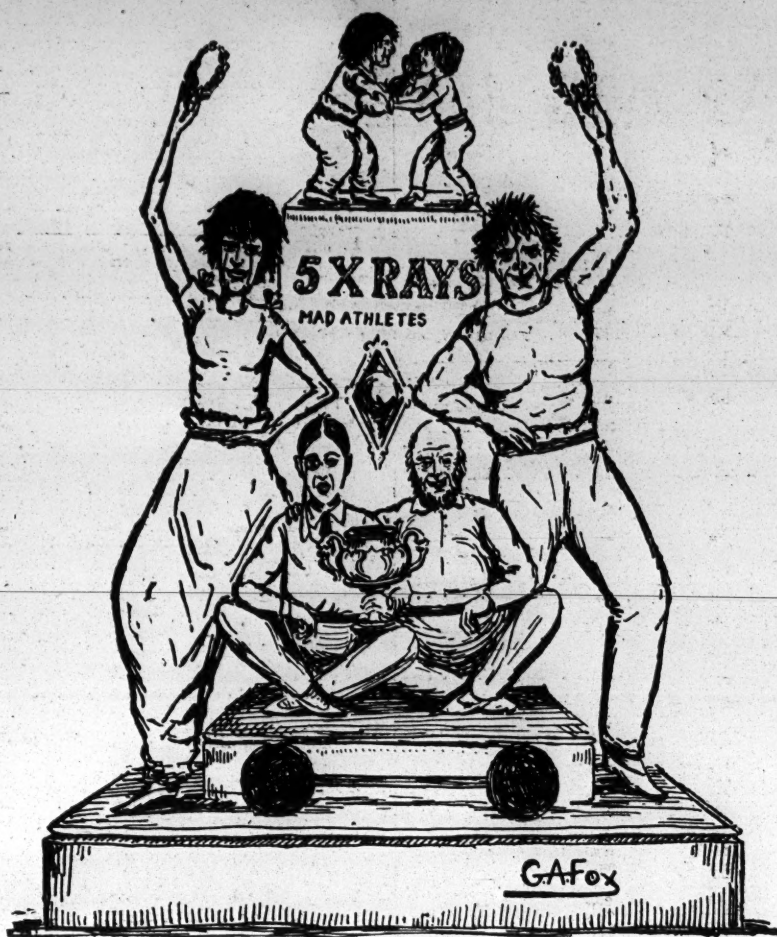
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Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—

"Business as Usual," and Star Company.

EMPIRE, FINCHURCH PARK.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—Selbit's Spirit Paintings, Dale and O'Malley, Cassie Walmer, Chris Baker, Bioscope, Holden's Mannikins, Nava and Minton, Ritchie Troupe, Chas. Austin, Barclay Gammon.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—"Mind Your Own Business," Thorpe and Coe, Tom Burton, Bioscope, Fred Dunt and Co.

BROADWAY T., NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—"The Girl in the Taxi."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—"Mumming Birds," Craggs, Chas. Vincent, Lillie Souther, Albert Le Fro, Matthew Boulton, Bioscope, May Henderson, Duncan's Dogs.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKES NEWINGTON.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—Kenway and Green, Ryan and Ryan, National Trio, Picture Entertainment.

EMPIRE, OARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—Gerald Griffin, Tom Edwards, Lily Burnand, Rose Sartella, Conway George, Bioscope, Two Tomboys, Harry Herbert.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—Walter Passmore and Co., Four Astors, Pasquall Bros., Fred Wildon, Dolly Victoria Troupe, Bioscope, Molly Wells.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—Ted, Richard and May Hopkins, John and Baby, Gilday and Fox, Arthur Young, Anna Hana, Bioscope, S. W. Wyndham, Radford and Valentine.

PANOPTICON, OARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—Lionel and Louis, Picture Entertainment.

OLYMPIA, OARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—Walter Gatty, Clive Watts, Picture Entertainment.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—"Pasting Events," Bioscope, Dora Lyric, Gertrude Bibby, W. S. Percy and Co.

EMPIRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—Rich and Rich, Elsie Roby, Ida Revell, Bioscope, "Parlez Vous Français?"

GRAND, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—Company as booked.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—Harry Burns' Pantomime "Dick Whittington."

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—Farr and Farland, Monodora, Bioscope, Three Crooks, Rivers and Sullivan, Dave Bryant, Kitty Wager, Sublet Trio.

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 p.m. for:—Henri De Vries and Co., Cruikshank, Fred Poplar, Eight Sunshine Girls, Bioscope, Four Vagabonds, Poppescu Troupe, Hill, Cherry and Hill.

NEW PALACE, SUMMERHILL, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:—Harry Hendrick, Sylvo, Bracewell and Bond, Picture Entertainment.

Artists' Business

must be absolutely free from vulgarity.

Special provision has been made at each Theatre for the exhibition of loose photographs. Artists are invited to supply these to the Manager on reaching the Theatre, and they will be returned in good condition at the end of the week.

Applications for Engagements by Artists or their Agents must be addressed to Head Office. State salaries required for (a) West End, (b) Suburban, (c) Large, and (d) Small Provincial Halls. A list of existing engagements must be enclosed. Artists are requested to accredit only one Agent at the same time and to notify the Company immediately of any change of Agents.

Silence a polite negative.

Artists desirous of submitting their Acts at private auditions should communicate with Head Office.

Matinees are held every Wednesday at the Empire Theatre, South Shields, at which new acts may be presented. Applications should be made to the Manager at the Theatre.

Engagements of Artists are subject to cancellation if the following requirements are not observed:—

(1) Matter for bills and programmes, blocks, specimens of pictorial (if any) and a list of engagements with (a) in the case of singers, copies of the songs and patten, (b) in the case of sketch proprietors copies of the scripts as licensed and copies of the Lord Chamberlain's Licence, must be sent to Head Office three weeks at least before opening.

(2) Artists must attend rehearsals, no deputies being accepted.

Important Notice to Artists and Agents. When an Artist or Act having previously played on the Moss Empire Tour, is re-engaged for further dates, the contracts will be sent to the Agent who negotiated the last engagement, unless notice has been received from the Artist that this is not desired.

Contracts and Orders. No contracts or orders for services or goods will be recognised unless upon an Official Form issued from Head Office and signed by the Managing Director or Business Manager, and the Company concerned may refuse payment for all services rendered or goods supplied except in accordance with this notice.

Invoices must be sent to the Theatre or Department to which goods are supplied, but monthly statements must be sent to Head Office.

The Company on whose behalf Contracts or Orders are signed is solely responsible for payment.

The Company will not hold itself responsible for loss or damage to Manuscripts, Songs, etc., submitted on sent to it for any purpose.

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METROPOLITAN.

Rehearsal at 12.15.

The Corinthians, Murry Leonard and Co., Naughton and G. L. H. A. ry Marlow, Eddy Walker, Ray Wallace, Rocky, Dorothy Graham and Co., Bioscope.

CHELSEA.

Rehearsal at 12.

Signor Arturo Bernardi, Maude Robinson and Co., Lily Lena, Tatten Hall, Guitare, Scott Gibson, George Newburn, Auber, Eddie Walker, Bioscope.

EUSTON.

Rehearsal at 12.

Tom Collins presents "Buying a Pub." The Seven Perzoffs, Mollie Linley and Co., Anna Doro hy, Naughton and Gold, Harry Webber, Austin Rudd, Hammon and Wyatt, Bioscope.

SOUTH LONDON.

Rehearsal at 12.

Martin A. Jenson and Co., Tom Craven and Co., Foot-Gers, The Harlequins, Les Vocales, Madge Camond, Augustin and Hartley, Arthur D'Orville, Hammon and Wyatt, Bioscope.

These Calls are communicated by the Managements for the information of Artistes "without prejudice."

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

Rehearsal at 1.

EAST HAM.

Rehearsal at 12.

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TOTTENHAM.

Rehearsal at 2.

Tom Collins presents "Buying a Pub." Flora Cromer (the Popula), On va to Extra, alvery, Briff, 1. ruff and Broff, Anglo-Belgian Comedy Tumblers, Sados, P. Wootwell, Austen Temple, Giovanni Colombo, Wynn Menton, The Meadows, Bioscope.

BRIXTON EMPRESS.

Rehearsal at 12.

Pilcer and Gerard, D.V. rak Family, David Poole, Gautier's To shop, Walter Em rson, Gwenni- Hasto, Vine and B. ewer, Marjor e D. an, Bioscope.

WATFORD PALACE.

Rehearsal at 1.

Mary Mayfren and Co., Trooper Charles Wilson, Joe White and Little Gink, Dorothy and Clifford Gray Trio, Lola Patey, Sydney James' Strolling Players, Edith Goff, Bioscope.

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Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—

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Rehearsal at 12 noon for:—

Minnie Mace, Hunter and Bob, Australian Alberto, Eric Godley, George Crotty, Violet Black, Bioscope.

THE CHISWICK EMPIRE.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:—

Jackson and Charles, Fred Arthur, Kenna Bros, Bioscope.

WOOD GREEN EMPIRE.

Rehearsal at 12.30 p.m. for:—

George Laird, Gertie Gihana, Bioscope.

NOTE—Artistes engaged at any of the above theatres should send photos for display in front of the house to Manager, to be returned at the end of the week.

NOTE—All sketches played at the above theatres must be licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, and a copy of the licence, together with script as licensed, must be sent to the Stoll Offices at least 21 days before date of performance.

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ADVERTISING MATTER.—Bills, Blocks, Photographs, and specimens of Pictorials really representing the Act, should be forwarded three weeks before opening. If return of photographs required, please say so.

STAGE DEPARTMENT.—Songs proposed to be sung should be submitted, and special stage requirements stated, in letters marked "Stage Department," by Artistes three weeks before opening.

COARSENESS, VULGARITY, &c., is not allowed. The Licensing Authorities forbid this and the majority of the public resent it. This intimation is only rendered necessary by a very few Artistes.

ARTISTES' SCENERY AND PROPERTIES must be fireproofed or they cannot be brought into the Theatre. This is by order of the Licensing Authorities.

BUSINESS NOTICE OF GENERAL APPLICATION.—No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the above Theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form issued from the Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll or the Secretary, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases where goods are required at once suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within 48 hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the above Head Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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